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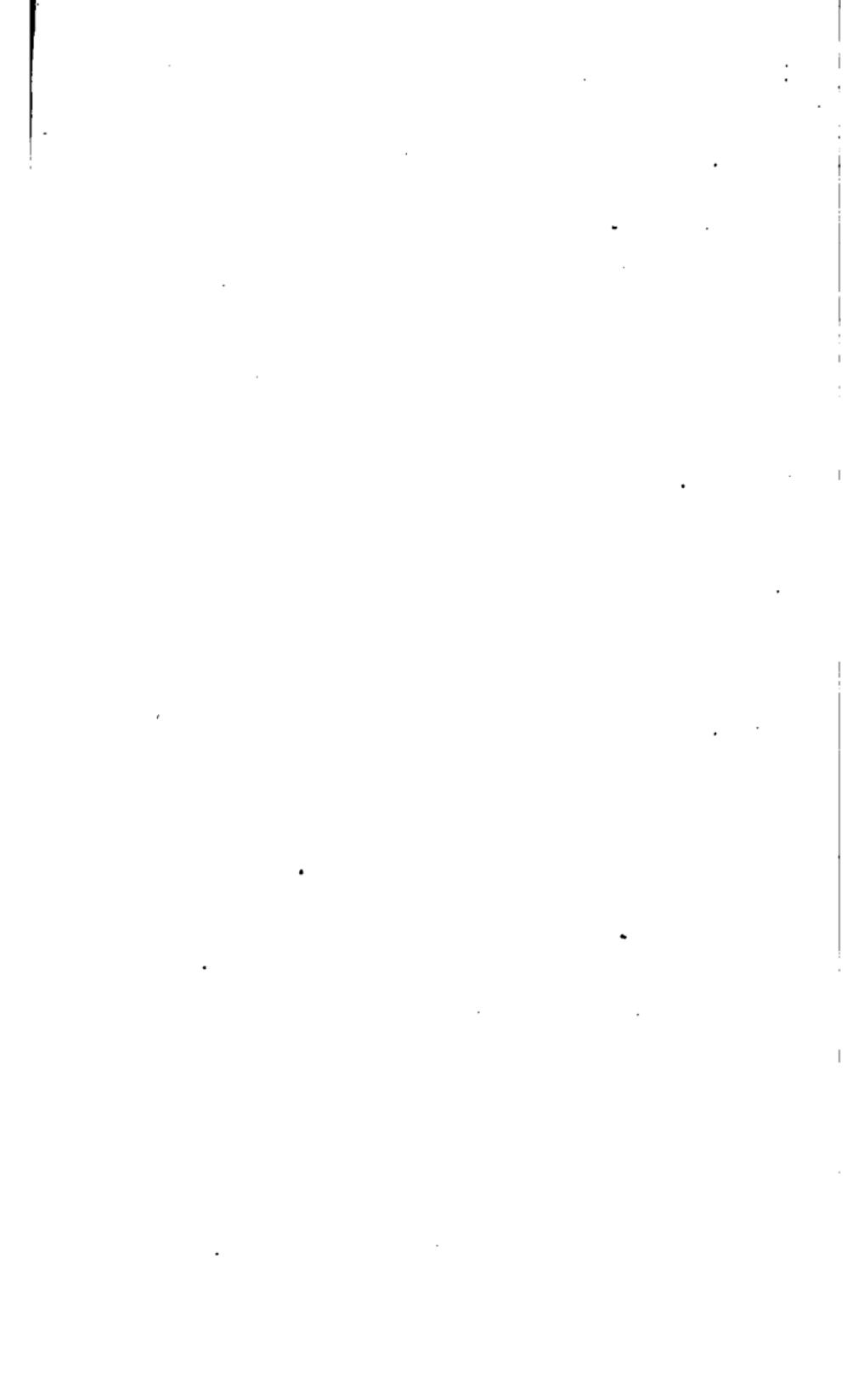
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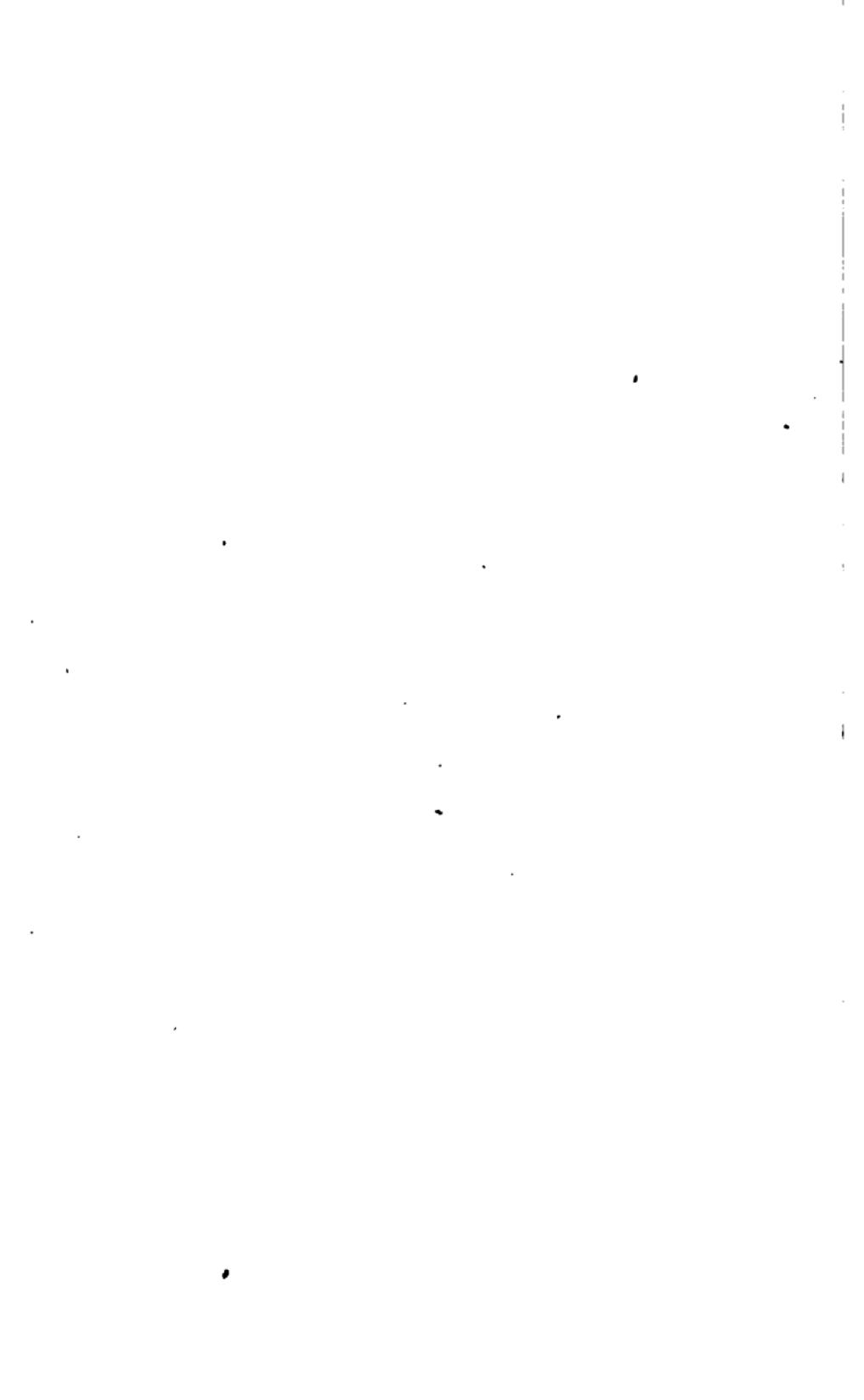
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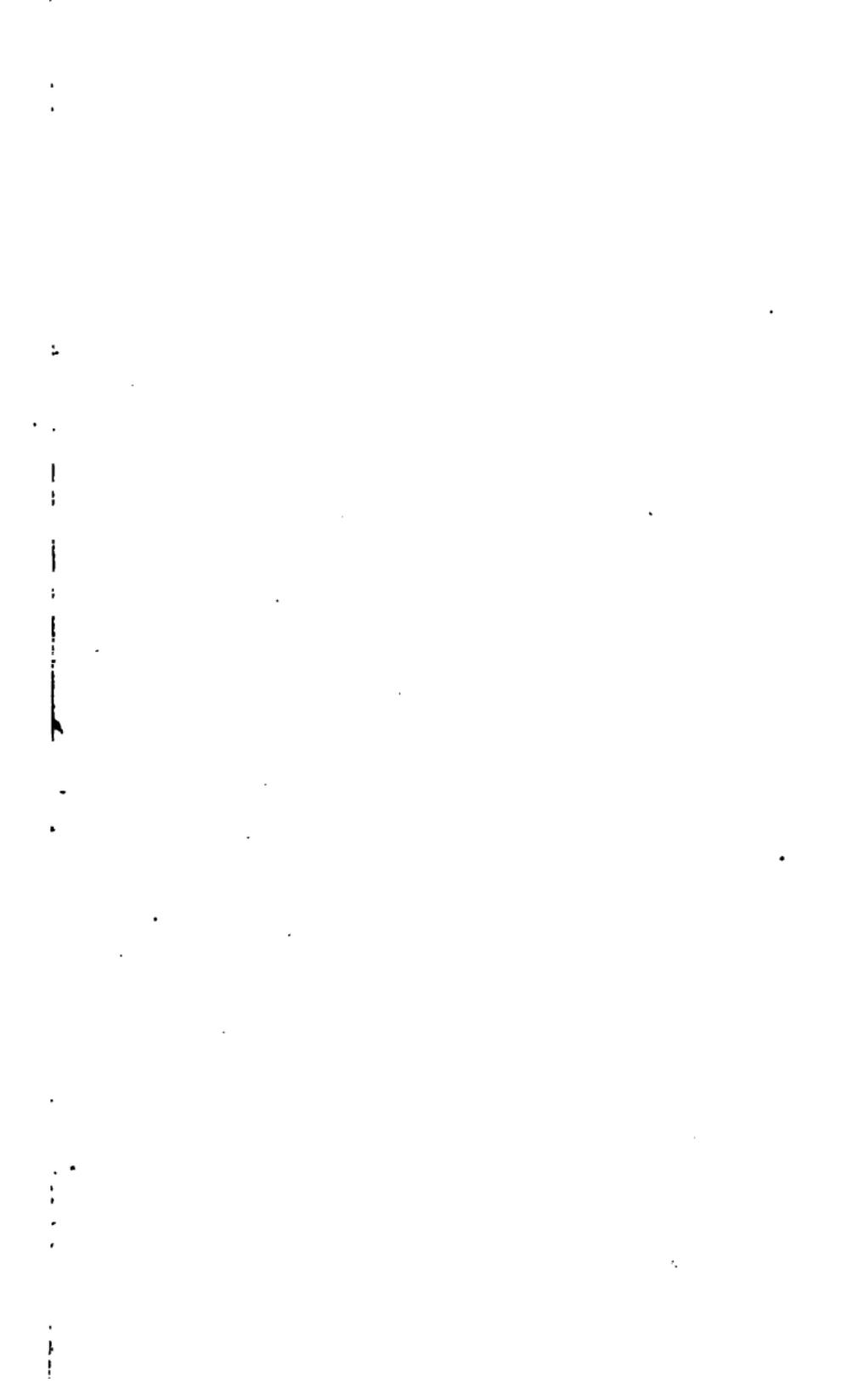


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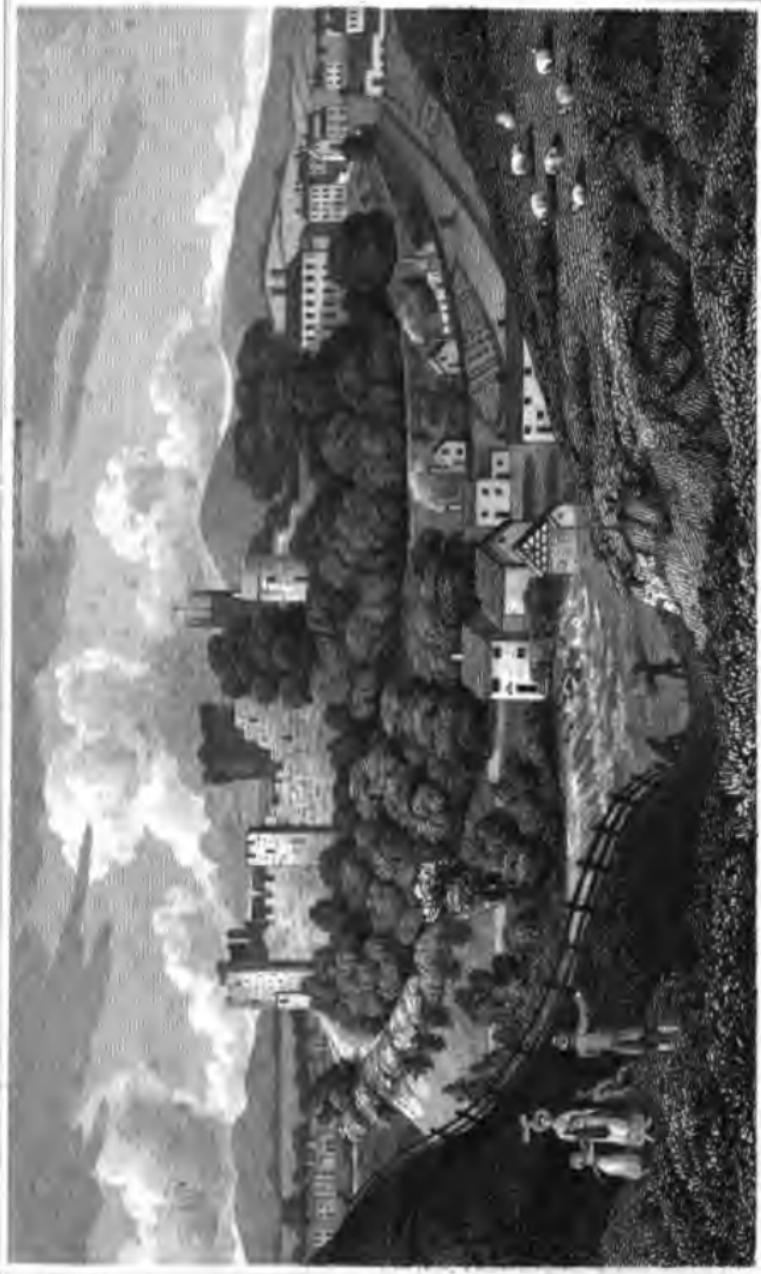
THE
History and Antiquities
OF
LUDLOW.





VIEW OF LUDLOW CASTLE.

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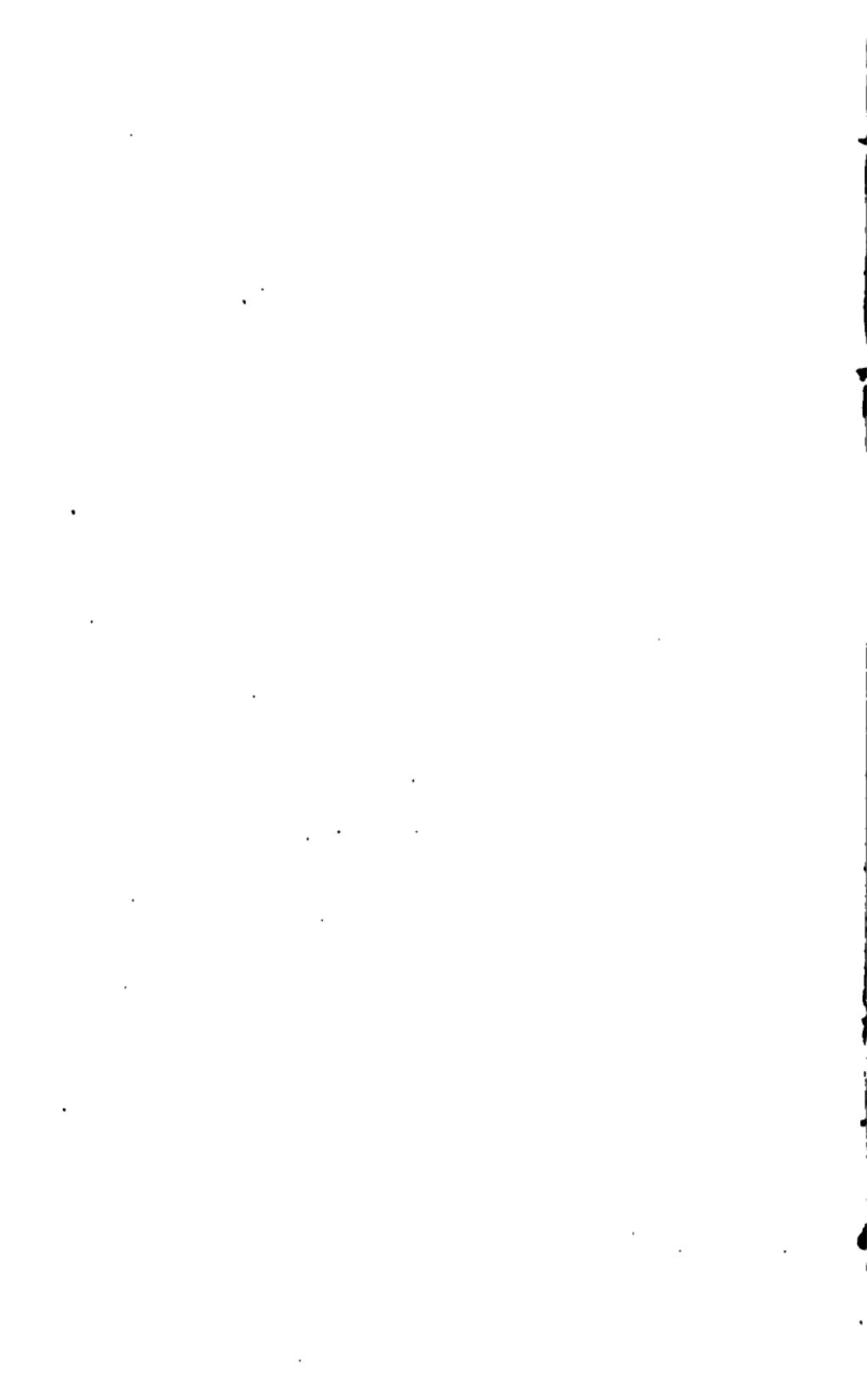
THE
HISTORY & ANTIQUITIES
OF THE TOWN OF
LUDLOW,
and its Ancient Castle;
WITH
LIVES OF THE PRESIDENTS,
AND
DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS
OF
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS,
Villages, &c.

Second Edition with Additions.

BY THOMAS WRIGHT.

LUDLOW:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY PROCTER AND JONES;
Sold also by
LONGMAN & Co. LONDON.

—
1826.



PREFACE.

THIS compendious account of the present and former state of Ludlow, is presented to the Public for the purpose of supplying in a cheap and portable form, such particulars as will be found contributary to the amusement and information of the occasional visitant, or the inquisitive inhabitant.

To those to whom the history of the country is familiar, it will be known that this district was formerly the scene of continual warfare, the Belgium of South Britain. When the first inhabitants were by degrees compelled to leave behind them the more fruitful parts, the fields of their inheritance, it was here that they made a bold resistance, and baffled the power of imperial Rome. Through the Saxon and Norman periods also, the Annalist has continually occasion to speak of Ludlow and its Vicinity: the splendor of its court, and the celebrity of the numerous great men who presided during the era of its prosperity, are well known.

Of the long series of events succeeding each other in the course of ages, many even of the most important are forgotten; and especially in periods of darkness and barbarism, history preserves little more for our information than dates which mark the lapse of time: hence in seeking materials for a local history, the general sources of information are peculiarly defective.

In the first introductory pages of the work, a compressed account is given of the state of affairs in this district during the Roman and Saxon æras; with a brief sketch of the history of Mercia, the inhabitants of which, were, as long as they constituted an independent State, engaged in active warfare against the Britons.

From the time of the Norman Conquest distinct historical notices are preserved relative to Ludlow Castle and the public transactions with which it was connected; these have been carefully collected from the old chronicles and other authentic records, the whole forming a regular narrative, which with the history and biography of the Presidency of Wales, brings the account down to a late period; from which to the present time, the massy fabric of Ludlow Castle, has stood, a durable and striking memorial of the activity and power of our ancestors.

The descriptive part is taken from actual surveys, with extracts from, and a constant comparison with former accounts, illustrated by

passages from the works of antiquarian writers and ancient historians.

As an acceptable addition, to Strangers as well as Residents, correct accounts are added of important charitable and useful Institutions, with the time of their original foundations, when it can be clearly ascertained; and Strangers will, without doubt, feel gratified by having put into their hands a convenient guide to the numerous surrounding Gentlemen's Seats, Villages, &c. which are briefly but circumstantially described.

In preparing this **SECOND EDITION** of the work for the press, care has been taken to correct former inaccuracies, and additional information has supplied the means of making considerable improvements.

From the nature of this work it can pretend to little more than the merit of judicious selection, and it is particularly incumbent on the Compiler to acknowledge, that among others, the elegant Historian of the Anglo-Saxons, the Author of the interesting History of the Court of Elizabeth, and the learned Authors of the Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain, have supplied important materials.

The Traveller pauses to contemplate such objects, in the more interesting parts of the country he has to traverse, as are eminently distinguished by the singularity, the beauty, or

the grandeur of their appearances. Seldom, it is believed, will he in his course, arrive at a place more attractive than Ludlow; and if his stay be for a season, the neighbourhood will supply an inexhaustible fund of pleasure and amusement.



History and Antiquities
or
LUDLOW.

THE history of the remote ages of antiquity is obscure; for in attempting to trace the succession of events through periods of darkness and barbarity, much is left to conjecture, which necessarily terminates in doubt and uncertainty. It is well known that the aboriginal inhabitants of this island made a last and determined stand against their invading enemies, in that district which had its boundary in, what in later times was called, the Marches of Wales. However this barrier tract might be extended from time to time one way or the other, as either party occasionally gained ground, it is certainly known that Ludlow was early occupied as a military station to withstand the incursions of the Britons, who disputed every foot of ground as they slowly retreated. So strongly are the natural

feelings of human nature opposed to injustice and oppression, that not only is all power contemned, but all hazards and difficulties suffered patiently, even life willingly sacrificed by a brave people, in preference to an ignominious and slavish submission.

The Romans are said to have been engaged nearly two hundred years in subduing Britain, and it was not till A. D. 75 that Julius Frontinus conquered the warlike tribe of the SILURES, twenty-five years after the defeat of Caractacus by Ostorius.

Of the active operations of the contending parties, interesting traces yet remain; on the Herefordshire beacon, Credon hill, Coxwall knoll, &c. are vestiges of british camps; and on the military stations of Dynedor and Brandon camps, undoubted remains of roman fortifications are visible. Also of the remarkable hill, called Caer Caradoc, traditional and historical accounts agree in stating it to have been occupied by Caractacus, and many fierce battles to have been fought in its vicinity. An ancient writer describes this place as "exceedingly well fortifed, both by nature and art; upon the toppe of an high hill, environed with a tripple ditch of great depth. There were iij gates, and on three sides, steepe headlong places, and compassed on the lifte hande with the river Colun, on the right with Themis." Different situations

have been ascribed to the scene of the last decisive battle between Ostorius and Caractacus ; but none rest on such strong grounds of probability, as the stations of Brandon camp and Coxwall knoll. The first of these is situated a little to the west of the great roman road leading from Magna, or Kenchester, to Uriconium, or Wroxeter, and between Wigmore and Leintwardine. Its square form, and the fragments of roman pottery, which may still be picked up within its precincts, evidently prove its origin. The second is within sight, and distant from the roman camp about three miles, and a little above the village of Brampton Brian. It crowns the summit of a lofty hill, well covered with oak trees, and is, (like the generality of british fortresses,) very irregular in its shape. The river Teme runs through the vale near the foot of the hill. Strong by nature but made stronger by art; bold and wild as the chieftain who formed it. On a survey of these two camps, even the most lukewarm traveller will feel a certain degree of enthusiasm, when he recollects that an Ostorius stood on one camp, and a Caractacus on the other ; and that their heroic deeds were recorded by the pen of a Tacitus. His satisfaction will be heightened, when he knows that they are the undoubted strong holds occupied by the roman and british generals ; for each particular related by the historian concerning

their respective situations, coincides with the natural position of the river Teme, and the camps of Brandon and Coxwall hills. To the scholar and the antiquarian the whole kingdom does not afford a more interesting or gratifying subject; let them observe the polished and simple form of the roman camp, and the rude and natural features of the british. The roman general depended alone on the strength of his arms, and the valour of his well disciplined legions; but the british chieftain called nature to his assistance, and strengthened her by art.

From the departure of the Romans, to the Norman conquest, history supplies no certain information concerning Ludlow, yet from various written and traditional accounts it is more than probable that there existed here a town, or fortress, of some importance, previous to the recorded erection of the Castle.

Dinan, Llystwysoc, ancient british names for this place, are certain indications of its having been the Palace of a Prince, as the Saxon name Ludlowe, *Leodlowe*, that is, People Mote, indicates its appropriation to the administration of justice.

Presuming from its british name, that this place was, at a remote period, a royal residence; and from indisputable authority, knowing, that after the departure of the Romans, the struggle for mastery between the Saxons and Britons,

continued more than five hundred years; and that during that period the frontier of Wales was peculiarly distinguished as the scene of contest; it may be deemed neither uninteresting nor too far deviating from our purpose, to give short notices of the most remarkable events connected with the history of Mercia.

The Saxon octarchy was progressively formed; Ella in Sussex, and Hengist in Kent, made a duarchy before the year 500. When Cerdic erected the state of Wessex a triarchy appeared; east Anglia made it a tetrarchy; Essex a pentarchy. The success of Ida after 547 establishing the sovereignty of the Angles in Bernicia completed an hexarchy, and the northern Ella by becoming king of Deira, made an heptarchy. In 586 the octarchy was completed by the establishment of the kingdom of Mercia. As the Anglo-Saxons warred with each other, sometimes one state was absorbed by another, and sometimes, after an interval, it emerged again, as the tide of conquest fluctuated, till at last a permanent monarchy arose under Egbert, or more certainly under Alfred the Great.

Arthur, one of the most renowned heroes who fought against the Saxons, some time previous to the establishment of the kingdom of Mercia, was a chieftain of South Wales. He is said to have fought twelve successful battles; and though it appears from several authorities that

there were other kings in various parts of Britain during Arthur's reign, yet he is represented as the paramount sovereign; the Pendragon, or Penteyrn, in nominal dignity at least, above every other. Arthur perished in a civil feud with Medrawd his nephew, whose name has been blackened with every reproach, because Arthur, the shield of the Cymry, perished in the war which he had excited.

The numerous celebrated British chiefs who succeeded are not forgotten by the ancient bards, in whose productions their fame yet lives. Many instances might be given of the striking traits of characteristic energy attributed to the heroes of bardic song. Taliesin makes Owen, the son of Urien, exclaim, in his address to his warriors:—

"Being assembled for our country,
Let us elevate our banners above the mountains;
And push forth our forces over the borders;
And lift our spears above the warriors' heads;
And rush upon the Destroyer in his army;
And slay both him and his followers!"

Taliesin was not only a bard but a soldier, and describes in expressive language the scenes of warfare he himself had witnessed:—

"Neither the fields, nor the woods, gave safety to the foe
When the shout of the Britons came
Like a wave raging against the shore.—
I saw the brave warriors in array;
And after the morning, how mangled!
I saw the tumult of the perishing hosts;
The blood springing forward and moistening the ground.
Gwenystrad was defended by a rampart:
Wearyed, on the earth no longer verdant,
I saw at the pass of the ford,
The blood stained men dropping their arms;
Pale with terror!"

As the Saxons gained upon their possessions, the Britons were confined to a narrower portion of the country; but the latter yielded no part until it had been dearly purchased.

The most indignant of the fugitives retired into Wales. There the bards consoled the expatriated Britons with the hope that the day would afterwards arrive when they should have their full revenge, by driving out the Saxon hordes. That they should again be led by their majestic chief, Arthur, and be again victorious. That this happy day should restore to every one his own: that the horns of gladness should proclaim the song of peace, the serene days of Cambrian happiness.

The anticipation of this blissful æra gave rapture to the Cymry, even in their stony paradise of Wales. This flattering prediction is extant in the writings of Myrddin:—

"A serpent with chains,
Towering and plundering,
With armed wings,
From Germania;
This will overrun
All Loegria and Brydon,
From the land of the Lochlin sea
To the Severn."

And afterwards is added:—

"Their lord they shall praise,
Their language preserve,
Their country lose,
Except wild Wales,
Till the destined period of their triumph revolves,
Then the Britons will obtain
The crown of their land,
And the strange people
Will vanish away."

In 607, or 609, the Britons suffered a disastrous overthrow while fighting under Brocmail, king of Powis, against Ethelfrith. Ancient Bangor fell into the hands of the victor, and its noble Monastery was levelled to the earth; its vast library, the collection of ages, the repository of the most precious monuments of the ancient Britons, was consumed; half ruined walls, gates, and rubbish, were all that remained of this magnificent edifice. This attack was excited by the Monk Augustine, called the Apostle of England: on his first visit a convention with the Cambrian Bishops was appointed; but the imperious tone assumed by the Missionary was neither calculated to conciliate esteem nor persuade to submission. The mischief of unequal warfare was foretold in threatening language, and the prophecy of the enraged saint was too fatally verified.

But amidst their misfortunes, the Cymry sometimes triumphed. In 610 Ceolwulf from Wessex advanced upon them, not merely to the Severn, but crossed it, into the province of Glamorgan. The inhabitants hastened to Tewdric, in behalf of his son Mowric, to lead a solitary life among the beautiful rocks and woodlands of Tintern. They solicited him to reassume the military command, in which he had never known disgrace. The royal hermit beheld the dreaded

Saxons on the Wye, but the remembrance of his former achievements inspired him with hope. He put on his forsaken armour, conducted the tumult of battle with his accustomed skill, and drove the invaders over the Severn. A mortal wound in the head arrested him in the full enjoyment of his glory, and he breathed his last wishes for his country's safety at the confluence of the Severn and the Wye. The local appellation Mathern, the abbreviation of Merthyr Tewdric, (the Martyr Tewdric,) pointed out his remains to the sympathy of posterity ; in the sixteenth century his body was found unconsumed, and the fatal wound on his head was visible.

Some chronicles state that Crida, the grandfather of Penda, was the first Mercian king, and that Ceorl, a kinsman of his son Wibba, preceded Penda, it is not, however, disputed that in 626 Penda was king of Mercia, a man of a malevolent and ferocious character, who reigned thirty years the terror and scourge of contemporary princes. In 634 the British prince Cadwallon was defeated and slain by Penda. After the death of Cadwallon, his son Cadwalladyr, discouraged by a pestilence and famine, which severely afflicted Wales, went to Bretagne, and was the last of the Cymry who pretended to the sovereignty of England. In the year 678 Ethelbald king of Mercia, wishing to add the pleasant region between the Severn and the Wye to his

territories, raised a powerful army and entered Wales, but at Carno, in Montgomeryshire, he was successfully opposed and driven over the Wye with great loss.

In 755 the celebrated Offa became king of Mercia ; his wars with the Britons were at first unsuccessful, but in the end he gained upon their territory as far as the Wye, and separated his acquisitions by an immense trench and rampart, which was carried over mountains and rivers for a hundred miles ; the remains of this work are still visible in various places. At the close of Offa's reign Ethelbert possessed the crown of east Anglia, a peaceful and intelligent prince. Invited, or welcomed by Offa, he went to Mercia for the purpose of receiving the hand of Etheldritha, the daughter of the Mercian king. He was received with due honours, the nuptial feast had begun, yet Offa procured his assassination. The favourable moment of annexing east Anglia to Mercia, was a temptation which alienated the feelings of the father and the man. Offa invaded his dominions and east Anglia was added to his conquests.

Did such a complication of crimes benefit the perpetrator? Before two years elapsed, he sunk from his empire to the grave. Remorse embittered all the interval. His widowed daughter abandoned his court, fled into the marshes of Creyland, and pined away her life in solitude.

His queen, the evil counsellor of his ambition, perished miserably ; the husband of another of his daughters was cut off in the same year as himself ; the other, who married Brithric, died a martyr to vice, in penury the most extreme, scorned and abhorred ; and his son Ecgfrid, who succeeded him, was permitted to live a king only a few months. The race of Offa disappeared for ever. Such are the results of a prosperity founded in vice !

In 819 Kenwulf, a peaceful, pious, and just king, died ; his crown descending to his son Kinelm, a child of seven years of age, who was cruelly murdered by his sister. Ceolwulf, his uncle succeeded him. This usurper was slain in battle in 825, and was followed on the throne by Ludecan, who, heading the army against the opposers of his predecessor, found a grave where he had hoped for an empire. Wiglaf, the prince or governor of Worcester, next succeeded ; he incautiously attacked Egbert with an inferior force ; was defeated, and fled to the abbey of Croyland : there that interesting character, Etheldritha, widowed in the hour of her marriage feast by her father Offa's crime, sheltered the fugitive prince in her respected cell. How painfully must she have moralized on the deed which had not only destroyed her happiness, but had contributed in its consequences the ruin of Mercia. The negotiations of the venerable Abbot

of Croyland preserved Wiglaf, but completed the degradation of Mercia. He was continued on the throne as the tributary vassal of Wessex.

In 878 the Danes making successful incursions, possessed themselves of Mercia, and gave the crown to Ceolwulf, who swore fidelity to his foreign masters, and promised to return the power they granted, whenever required. He plundered the poor peasantry, robbed the clergy, and practised every kind of oppression. But this pageant of tyranny displeased his masters, was stripped of every thing, and perished miserably. With him for ever ended the Anglo Saxon octarchy.

As the Saxons had at first gained footing in Britain by a cruel and bloody invasion of the original inhabitants, so in their turn they had to fall before the furious attacks of the more savage and barbarian cruelty of a race of invaders from the northern wilds of Scandinavia, who in the ninth century, carried fire and sword throughout the coasts, and even the interior of England.

Educated in the religion of Odin, the acknowledged God of slaughter and devastation, these fierce warriors conceived themselves alone entitled to happiness in another world, in proportion to the violence of their own deaths, and the number of the enemy whom they had slain on the field of battle. Of their war chiefs, Guthrun, or Gormo, was not the least celebrated.

"The cruel Guthrun," says one of our oldest historians, "arrived in England, A. D. 878, at the head of an army of pagan Danes, no less cruel than himself, who, like inhuman savages, destroyed all before them, involving cities, towns and villages, with their inhabitants, in devouring flames; and cutting those in pieces with their battle-axes who attempted to escape from their burning houses. The tears, cries and lamentations of men, women and children, made no impression on their unrelenting hearts; even the most tempting bribes, and the humblest offers of becoming their slaves, had no effect. All the towns through which they passed exhibited the most deplorable scenes of misery and desolation: as venerable old men lying with their throats cut before their own doors; the streets covered with the bodies of young men and children, without heads, legs, or arms; and of matrons and virgins, who had been first publicly dishonoured, and then put to death." Such, it may reasonably be believed, was the scene exhibited in the desolated kingdom of Mercia, when under the sub-government of Wiglaf, it was plundered by the army of Guthrun.

It was into the camp of this ferocious leader of piratical invasion, that our patriot king, the unrivalled Alfred, was introduced, in the disguise of a harper; a stratagem which, enabling him to detect the insecurity of his foes, and

their want of discipline, led, very shortly afterwards, to their complete defeat.

With Alfred, the first result of victory, was clemency and benevolence. To Guthrun and his followers, now prostrate at his feet, he proffered not only mercy and forgiveness, but protection and territory, provided they would abandon Paganism, embrace Christianity, and be regulated by the laws of civilized Society.

To these terms Guthrun joyfully, and as the event proved, sincerely acceded ; himself and thirty of his officers being immediately baptized in the presence of Alfred. Part of his army and his retinue were settled with their chief in east Anglia ; Guthrun fixing on the scite of Hadleigh in Suffolk, as a central situation for his capital, or heard-liege. He reigned near eleven years, inviolably observing the laws and religion of Alfred, and preserving his own people within the strict bounds of peace and good order. No stronger proof indeed can be given of the integrity and fidelity of Guthrun than, that no sooner had he ceased to govern, than the Danes of east Anglia shewed signs of turbulence and disaffection, and took the earliest opportunity of co-operating with their countryman, Hastings, in his invasion of England in 893. An ancient gothic arch in the wall of Hadleigh church, marks the place where his remains were deposited. All history cannot furnish a more illustri-

ous instance of the power of christian principles to restore fallen human nature, than the conversion of Guthrun the Dane.

Inscription for the tomb of Guthrun ;—

“O! stay thee stranger ; o'er this hallow'd ground
 In solemn silence pause! Here sleeps the chief,
 Whom royal Alfred, with a christian's zeal,
 From deeds of savage slaughter, from the rites
 Of Odin, bath'd in blood, and breathing war.
 Turn'd to the living God.—Guthrun the Dane!
 Here oft, repentant of the erring course
 That stain'd his dawn of manhood, hath he bow'd
 His head in meekness ; with a pilgrim's faith
 Abjur'd the idols of his native land;
 Pray'd for redeeming grace; and sighing deep,
 Dropped the lone tear upon his Saviour's cross;
 Then hence retiring with a patriot's care,
 Ruled his brief realm, and kept his vow of peace.
 O ye, who 'midst the strife of battle, burn
 With lust of fame or power! Say, have ye felt
 E'en in the glow of conquest, when the car
 In triumph bore you o'er the tented field,
 Felt ye a throb of joy so keenly sweet,
 Such thrilling rapture as did Guthrun feel?
 When free from ruthless rage and thirst of blood,
 The storm of vengeful passion hallow'd to rest,
 Here, prostrate at St. Mary's shrine, he felt
 His heart within him yearning for his God.
 Go stranger, if perchance to thee belong
 The honour'd name of father, teach thy sons,
 That not in deeds of rapine, or of spoil,
 Power's forceful arm, or vict'ry's crimson steel,
 Consists the virtue or the good of man;
 That He, who bade them breathe and live, alone
 Looks on the heart, alone vouchsafes to dwell
 In that pure bosom, where, with peace resides
 The sister forms of Piety and Love.”

On the ascendancy of Alfred and the declension of the Danish power, Mercia was governed as a province by Ethelred, who married Ethelfleda, or Elfleda, the eldest daughter of his sovereign.

Ethelfleda was a woman of superior understanding, and extolled in the ancient Chronicles as the wisest lady in England : her brother Ed-

ward governed his life, in its best actions, by her counsels. After she was married to the governor of Mercia, she built numerous cities and castles, and on all occasions displayed a statesman's skill, and an amazonian activity. The difficulties and sufferings of her first partition deterred her from the chance of a repetition; she protested that it did not become a king's daughter to pursue any pleasure, which was attended with such inconvenience.

In 912 Ethelfleda was a widow, but she continued to govern Mercia until her death in 920. Among the numerous fortresses which she erected to protect the Mercian territory in Shropshire and Herefordshire, were Wigmore, Bridgnorth, and Chirbury. This celebrated lady died at Tamworth, and was buried at Gloucester, by St. Peter's Porch; upon her tomb this Epitaph was written.—

“O Elfleda potens, o terror virgo virorum,
 O Elfleda potens, nomine digna viri.
 Te quoque splendidior fecit natura pueram,
 Te probitas fecit nomen habere viri.
 Te mutare decet sed solum nomina sexus,
 Tu regina potens rexque trophea parans.
 Jam nec Cesareos tantum mirere triumphos,
 Cesaree splendidior virgo, virago vale.”

Translation:—

“O Princess, dread of Cambria's hostile band,
 Elfleda, worthy of a manlier name;
 A woman made by nature's liberal hand,
 But virtue gave thee more than manly fame.
 Thou mighty queen whom kinglike trophies grace,
 Still with thy sex thy fame will disagree;
 Now we no more Cesarean triumphs praise,
 For Caesar, boasted conqueror, yields to thee.”

In 983 Alfric occupied the dukedom of Mercia. Three years afterwards he was expelled the kingdom. In 992 he was intrusted, by Ethelred the unready, with the management of an expedition against the Danes, who had invaded the coasts. The expedition failed through his perfidy in joining the invaders; to revenge which, the king barbarously put out the eyes of his son Algar.

Edric, one of the favourites of Ethelred, was duke of Mercia in 1007. He was eloquent and crafty; excelling all men in perfidy and cruelty. When, in 1013, Canute the Dane called to his aid Eric the Jarl, one of the rulers of Norway, and one of the sons of Hakon the bad, Edric crowned the treasons of his life, by joining the invading enemy. In this warfare Mercia was plundered without mercy. This infamous noble was again restored to his dukedom by Canute in 1016, but imprudently boasting of his services, and his treasons to his former sovereign, Canute's anger arose, and he ordered his attendants to put him to death in his presence. In 1057 England lost Leofric, the duke of Mercia, by whose wisdom the reign of Edward the confessor, was preserved from many perils and disorders, which the ambition of others would have introduced: his son Algar succeeded him.

The early part of the history of the conten-

tions of the Britons and Saxons is so little diversified, that it is reviewed rather with disgust than complacency ; it is a recital of reciprocal inroads and injuries, neither supplying a regular series of events to form a consistent history, nor affording scenes of sufficient interest to engage the imagination. Among the few exceptions to this general character of the rude and barbarous ages referred to, the æra of the renowned Arthur must not be forgotten ; he was a prince formed by nature to inspire a nation with chivalrous and dignified sentiments, and incite to great and worthy actions ; and the enthusiastic attachment of his countrymen is a proof of his worthiness. He is described as the most brave, the most witty, and the most liberal of all the British princes. When Uther expired, preferring death with glory to life with shame, and conquering even in his dying moments, Arthur was crowned king of Britain by Dubricious, Archbishop of Caerleon. The splendor of his court, his bravery and generosity, made him the idol of his country, and insured success against his enemies. His fame and his genius drew around him all the choice spirits of the age, and in all occurrences of importance and difficulty, he was aided in his councils, in the tower of heroes, by the advice of his attendant train of noblemen and knights.

In the ninth century, Judith, the sister of Al-

fred the great, was married to Baldwin with the iron arm, Count of Flanders: the son of this marriage was Baldwin the bald. It was he who obtained the hand of Alfritha, the daughter of Alfred, their offspring was Arnulph, who is mentioned with expressions of celebrity, and who succeeded his father in 918. From a descendant of Arnulph was born Matilda, the wife of William the Conqueror.

At the time of the Norman invasion, in the year 1066, Edwin, the son of Algar, and grandson of Leofric and the celebrated Godiva, was Earl of Mercia: he was extolled for beauty of person, and benevolence of disposition. This Earl, with Morcar, Edric the wild, and several other nobles, made formal submission to the Conqueror, but afterwards rebelled, and being overcome in an engagement with the monarch, were all slain, or taken and imprisoned for life; except Edric, who occupying his castle of Wigmore, sustained a long and arduous contest with the forces sent against him, under the command of Roger de Montgomery and Rapulph Mortimer. Edric, at last compelled to surrender, was sent prisoner to the king, and, for having completed this undertaking, Mortimer was rewarded by the gift of Wigmore Castle and its appendages; and Montgomery had granted to him all Edric's possessions in Salop, comprehending nearly the whole of that county.

The fate of Edwin and of Morcar is feelingly related by Ordericus, a contemporary writer, from whom the following is a translation. "King William," says he, "seduced by wicked counsel, injured his fair fame by fraudulently entrapping in the isle of Ely the illustrious Earl Morcar, who was neither plotting, nor suspecting, any evil. This was effected in the following manner. When the king knew that the Earl was in that island, he sent certain perfidious emissaries, who advised him to surrender himself to the royal authority, and assured him of a gracious reception. In these false assertions the Earl simply confided, and leaving his strong holds in the isle, repaired to William, who, apprehensive lest by his influence the English might be excited to revolt, threw him into chains, and kept him in prison all his life, under the ward of Roger de Beaumont. When the comely youth Edwin heard this, he burned with revenge: six months did he pass in craving assistance from Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Thus employed he was betrayed by three brothers, his principal confidants; and while with twenty horsemen he defended himself against the Normans, he was slain on the banks of a river, from which he could not escape, on account of a high tide. His death was lamented by men of all parties: born, as he was, of religious parents, and inclined to many virtues, notwithstanding the worldly affairs in which he was

engaged ; his person was remarkably handsome, and he was an especial benefactor to clerks, to monks, and to the poor. The king wept when he heard of the treason by which this Mercian Earl fell, and banished from his presence the traitors who brought to him their master's head."

It cannot be ascertained at what precise time Ludlow became distinguished either as a town or fortress ; it is recorded in a chronicle of the *Fitz Guarines*, that "Roger de Montgomery erected the greatest part of the castle, and fortified the town with walls." We cannot but suppose a town was found here previous to its being so encircled and defended ; it may also be inferred, that in the times and place alluded to, a town and a fortress must have been coincident with each other : be this as it may, it is the general opinion of writers on the subject, that the present castle was completed by this nobleman.

It is true this statement has been disputed, but as inconsistencies are observable in all accounts of the affairs of this frontier district, during the periods referred to, we shall retain that which has been most generally adopted.

Roger de Montgomery was related to the Conqueror ; led the centre division of his army in that memorable battle which secured the conquest of England, and was advanced to the Earldoms of Arundel and Shrewsbury.

His first wife was Mabel, daughter and heir-

ess to William Talvace, (son of William, son of Ivo de Belesme, a person of great power and note in Normandy,) with whom he had a large inheritance. By this Mabel he had five sons and four daughters; of whom Robert de Belesme was the eldest.

Montgomery is represented in history as a person no less distinguished for piety than valour. He was the liberal founder of many rich monasteries and churches, particularly the monastery of Wenlock, and the abbey church of Shrewsbury, in which he was buried, and where there is yet to be seen an image of him found among the ruins of Wenlock monastery, with an inscription, stating that it was placed there by his Majesty's heralds at arms in the year 1622. He died on the 27th of July, 1094, his son Robert succeeding to his Norman property, and Hugh, his second son, inheriting his English titles and estates, became Lord of Ludlow castle, which he did not enjoy long, being suddenly taken off in the prime of life. The account of his death is found in the Welch Chronicle, page 156.

"The year following being 1096, Hugh de Montgomerie Earl of Arundell and Salopsburie, whom the Welchmen call Hugh Goch, that is to say, Hugh the red-headed; and Hugh Vras, that is, Hugh the fat, Earl of Chester, and a great number of nobles more, did gather a huge

armie, and entred into North Wales, being there-to moved by certain lords of the country," &c. "And so the Earls came over against the ile of Môn, or Anglesey, where they did build a Castle of Aberthiennhawc. Then the Earls spoiled the ile and slew all that they found there. And at the verie same time Magnus, the sonne of Haroald, came with a great navie of ships towards England, minding to haie faster hold upon that kingdome than his father had done, and being driven by chaunce to Anglesey, would have landed there, but the Earls kept him from the land. And there Magnus with an arrowe stroke Hugh, Earl of Salep, in the face, that he died thereof, and suddenlie either part forsook the ile, and the Englishmen returned to England, and left Owen ap Edwyn prince in the land, who had allured them thither." The Earl was buried in the abbey of St. Werburgh, which he had founded at Chester.

Robert, on the death of his brother, succeeded to the Earldoms of Shrewsbury and Arundel in England. He was knighted in Normandy by William the Conqueror in the year 1073, and became a great favourite of that Prince; but no sooner was the king dead, than his turbulent and rebellious disposition began to shew itself. He seized on several of the royal forts and garrisons, and joined with Odo, Earl of Kent, against William Rufus, with whom a reconcilia-

tion was, however, effected. He afterwards took part with Robert Curtoise against king Henry I. and on being summoned to answer the treasonable charges alledged against him, fled to his castles which he had strongly fortified; but at last he was under the necessity of imploring the royal mercy. The king confiscated his estates, deprived him of his honours, and banished him the realm. Yet the wealth which he had treasured up in thirty-four strong castles supported him sufficiently; but his restless spirit formed new conspiracies even in exile, which were carried to such a dangerous length, that the king, considering that no favour could win him, nor oath or promise oblige, summoned him before his court of justice, where he was by judgment committed to close imprisonment, and sufficiently secured for the remainder of his life. His character has been drawn by an ancient historian, as a very subtle, crafty, and deceitful man; big of body, strong, bold; powerful in arms, and eloquent; but exceedingly cruel, covetous, and libidinous. A person of great insight in serious affairs, and unwearyed in his management of worldly business; likewise a most ingenious architect; but for inflicting torments, a most inexorable butcher. No friend to the church, but a vile and wretched oppressor; for which he underwent the sentence of excommunication by the venerable Serlo, Bishop

of Sees, all his lands being interdicted, so that there was no burial therein, yet nothing was he reformed by any of these means. In brief, his character can only be paralleled by that of the most cruel tyrant that was ever known; his severity being exercised not only on strangers, but even friends and familiars; glorying and making his boast amongst his parasites of these his unparalleled inhumanities. He took to wife Agnes, the daughter of Guy, Earl of Penthien, whom he used most barbarously. This Earl possessed the castle of Ludlow until his attainder, when it came into the possession of king Henry I. by whom it was made a princely residence, greatly augmented in the strength of its works and supplied with a numerous garrison.

The frequent skirmishes and battles between the Welsh and their frontier enemies were productive of great slaughter and losses to both parties, and the kings of England often sent powerful armies, and some in person invaded their coasts, and drove them into the mountainous and uninhabited parts, but were never able to penetrate into the heart of the country without great loss to themselves, and little annoyance to the Welsh. This want of success was occasioned by the strait passes and intricate windings among mountains and bogs, which favoured the flight of men habituated to these rugged and apparently inaccessible retreats.

However in process of time, they lost much of their low frontier country, but they by no means allowed their enemies to possess their acquisitions in peace and quietness.

The English monarchs perceiving this warfare to be very troublesome and hazardous, (as Henry II. fatally experienced when he attempted to march his army over Berwin mountains, nearly the whole being destroyed by cold and famine,) were therefore induced to grant to certain English gentlemen of enterprising dispositions, such portions of the country as they could gain from the Welsh by force of arms at their own expense. And this conquered territory they allowed them and their heirs to hold freely of the crown, *per Baroniam*, with the exercise of royal jurisdiction therein: hence they were called Lords, or Barons, Marchers; and all the foundation of their title was by assumption and permission, and not by grant; for no grant of this nature was ever known to have been recorded, either in the tower or elsewhere.

Allured by these promises, many noblemen, and other persons of distinction, raising armies, marched into Wales, and, after various successes and changes of fortune, dispossessed the Welsh of a considerable extent of country.

About the time of the Norman Conquest, several large garrisoned towns were built on the frontiers of Wales, viz. Bristol, Gloucester,

Worcester, Salop, and Chester. Secure in these fortresses, the adventurers, by frequent incursions into the low and flat countries, prosecuted a very destructive warfare against their opponents, and by force or stratagem drove them from their possessions.

Peter Corbett held the manor of *Caerse*: Theobald de Vernon had *Mably*: Mortimer, *Wigmore*: Fitz-Allen, *Clun*: &c. and all those Lords Marchers executed laws of sovereign governors on their tenants and people, which the kings of England thought prudent to permit for a time. A similar policy, as we learn from the historian Lampridius, was used with respect to lands on the confines of Scotland, and in both instances savage and ferocious border wars continued for ages.

After the accession of Stephen, the governor of Ludlow Castle, Gervase Paganelle, having betrayed his trust in joining the Empress Maud, Stephen besieged it; in which attack some say he succeeded, others on the contrary represent the attempt as completely unsuccessful. The most prevailing opinion is that the governor repenting, wished to obtain the king's forgiveness, and succeeded in gaining advantageous terms of submission for himself and the garrison, on which the Castle was surrendered, A. D. 1139.

During this siege the Earl of Northumberland, son of David king of Scotland, driven on by ju-

venile boldness, had nearly fallen a victim to his indiscretion ; approaching too near the walls, on horseback, he was on the point of losing his life by means of a grapping engine thrown out by the besieged. From this perilous situation he was extricated by the king, who hastened instantly to his relief, and having cut asunder with his sword the ropes to which the iron hooks were fixed, saved the young prince, at the imminent danger of his own life. "An action," says Rapin, "which redounded as much to the honour of the king, as of the prince for whom he testified so great an affection.

About the year 1176 Henry II. made a grant of this noble Castle to Fulke Fitz Warine his favourite, surnamed de Dinan, together with that extensive and fertile vale on the banks of the river Corve, called Corve-Dale.

To this Fulke Fitz Warine de Dinan, succeeded Joccas de Dinan ; between whom and Hugh de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, great dissensions arose ; insomuch that Joccas could not pass out of his castle without danger of being taken by Mortimer's men. But it so happened, that Mortimer himself setting spies upon Joccas, and roving through the woods alone, was surprised in the thickets contiguous to Whitecliffe Heath, by some men who had been sent to cut wood for the garrison, by whom he was taken prisoner into the Castle of Ludlow,

and confined in one of the towers, which to this day is called Mortimer's Tower, from whence he was not released until he had paid three thousand marks of silver for his ransom. An amazing sum, if we consider the great difference between the value of money at that period and the present.

It is not clearly ascertained from history at what time the Lacy family first possessed the Castle of Ludlow, but in the grant made to Robert, Earl of Leicester, of the Earldom of Hereford, we find the name of Hugh de Lacy, with an acknowledgment of a former claim that the family had to the possessions granted to Gotso, or Joccas. The deed in question, was made in the last year of the reign of Stephen. "If he can arrange matters with Gotso de Dinant," says the king, "I freely grant that the said Gotso may hold his fee, which had been Hugh de Lacy's, of the Earl." It was during the time it was possessed by Gotso, or Joccas, that Lacy boldly attempted to make good his claim by force of arms, in which he finally succeeded. During the contest, Hugh and his friend, Sir Arnold de Lisle, were taken captive and confined in the "prison of Pendover within the Castle of Ludlow." In which state of suspense they probably remained a considerable time, at the mercy of their enemy. However it is recorded that an amour with a gentlewoman of the household of Sir Joccas, supplied de Lisle with the means of escape. Soon after returning

with a sufficient force they were secretly admitted into the Castle by their female inamorato, and the unfortunate Sir Joccas was deprived of his possessions. The too late repentance of this abandoned woman drove her to the madness of desperation, and in her frenzy she destroyed herself.

The following curious account in Leland's *Collectanea*, Tom. 1. p. 231, refers to this period.

“Thinges excerptid oute of an old Englisch boke yn ryme of the Gestes of Guarine and his sunnes. William Conqueror toke counsel of Corbet and Mortimer for strenkething of his marches about the quarters of Shropshire agayn the Walchmen. The burge of Shrobbesburi was committed to the cure of Roger de Belesme, where he made a castel Alberbyri and Alleston was committed to Guarine de Mees. Alane Fleilsonne had gyven to him Oswaldestre, Payne Peverel, that lovid welle hunting had Whitington with al the lordship. Payne Peverel had no issue; but his sister had a sunne caullid William, a worthy knight, that won the hundredes of Elllesmere, and Meilor, and other mo. This William had issue eleven daughters, whereof Helene was married to Alane's heyre: and Mellet the secunde, wold have none but a knight of very nobil hardines. Wherfore her father promised by crye that noble yong men should meate at Peverel's place in the Peke, and he that provid

hymself yn fentes of armes, should have Mellet his daughter, with the castle of Whitington. Guarine cam to this enterprise, and ther faute with a sunce of the king of Scotland, and also with a Baron of Burgoyne, and vanquish'd them bothe. Guarine had a sheld of sylver, and a proude peacock upon his heaulme creste. Guarine wedded Mellet, and had a sunce caullid Fulco. Joos, a knight, was left as governer to yong Fulco. Guarine and he defendid his lands agayne one Walter, the greatest of the marche lorde oute of Lacy and Ludlow. They met at a beat by Bourne, at a bridge ende a litle from Ludlow. Joos bare a sheld of sylver, with thre blew lyons coronid with gold.

Joos had a daughter caullid Hawise, whom Fulco Gwarine entirely lovid, and seyng her in great dolour, askid the cause of her sorrow, and she answerid that it was no matier for an hauker to amende: and he upon that toke hise and spere to rescewe Joos her father, as one Gedarde was about to streke of his hede; so that Godarde was slayne of him, and Gualter Lacy dryven away. Then Joos recovered a horse and sore woundid Syr Arnold that did hym much hurt. Ther Fulco killid one Andrew, a knight longging to Walter Lacy. Gualter Lacy and Syr Arnold were taken prisoners and put in the Castel of Ludlow, in a prison caullid Pendouer.

A gentilwoman, caullid Marion, deliverid

both these knightes by treason oute of Pendouer, for love of Syr Arnold de Lis, one of them that promised her falsely marriage. Fulco Guarine weddid Hawise, daughter to Joos, at Ludlow Castel. Joos and Fulco Guarine toke a journey into Ireland; Marion tarried, faining siknes, behind, and write a lettre to her love Syr Arnold de Lis, to cum secrety to her up into the Castel with a lader of leder and cordes. Arnold cam according to Marion's desier, and had his pleasure of her; and sone after cam his band, and secrety scalinge the walles killed the Castellanes. Then Marion, seeing this treason, lept out of a towre and brake her nek; and Arnold killed after many of the burgeses of Ludlow toune, sparing nother wife, widow, nor childe.

Walter Lacy, hearing that the Castel and toune of Ludlow was won, cam with his band thither, and mannid and vitailid Ludlow, keping it as his owne. This tidinges was told to Joos, lying at Lambourne. Joos and Fulco, and his father Guarine, cam to rescue Ludlow; and in assaulting of it killid many of Lacy's men. Then Lacy, with a band of men, cam oute to fight with them; but he lesing many men, was sayne to recoyle into the toune. Sone after this, Guarine de Meese waxed very sike, and so goying to Albourby he dyed there within VII dayes, and was buried in the new abbay, Fulco his sunne and Mellet his wife being present. Fulco

returnid to help Joos. Gualter Lacy sent to the prince of Wales for help, and he cam, wynning by the way Whitington; and Deonoan, a place about Ludlow, wither the prince of Wales with his, resortid to help Lacy.

Fulco Guarine hurte the prince of Wales in the shoulder, and drove hym to a castel, caullid Cayhome, where Cay had be lorde, and there assegeng by three days part of the princes men, killid many of them at a certen issue. Fulco was woundid, and yet roode to mete king Henry by Gloucestre, of whom he was welle interteynid as his kinnesman, and there he had his wounde that Arnold's brother gave him yn the waste welle helid. King Henry made Fulke a knight, and steward of his house, and lorde and governor of thos marchis. This Fulco Guarine had a sonne by his wife Hawise, likewise callid Fulco."

The male line of the Lacies became extinct on the death of the first Hugh, but the name was revived in the person of his nephew. It was this second Hugh de Lacy to whom Henry II. gave the Earldom of Ulster; and it is presumed he was sanctioned in retaining possession of Ludlow by the same monarch.

In the fifth of Richard I. Gilbert Talbot had lands given him for the custody of Ludlow Castle, and eight years afterwards, 1198, Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Primate of Eng-

land, took possession of Ludlow Castle on behalf of the king, and committed it to the care of new governors.

Anno gratiæ millesimo centesimo nonagesimo octavo, Hubertus, &c. fuit in Walliâ, et recepit in manu suâ Castellum de Ludelaw, &c. expulxit inde custodibus, qui ea diu custodierant; et tradidit ea aliis custodibus custodienda ad opus Regis. *Hoveden Annal. p. 775.*

In the eighth year of the reign of king John, we find this castle remaining in the possession of the crown, and it was then conferred on Philip de Albani, who intermediately enjoyed it until it again devolved to the ancient family of the Lacies. Walter de Lacy, and Gilbert his son, granted great possessions in and near the town of Ludlow, for the support of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, founded by Peter Undergod, soon after the conquest. This hospital stood near Ludford bridge, contiguous to Ludlow, in a place called to this day St. John's close.

Walter de Lacy died in the year 1241, the twenty-fifth year of Henry III. his estates descending, in default of male heirs, to his two grandaughters, Margery and Maud.

In the twenty-eighth of Henry III. A. D. 1244, Geoffrey de Genevill having married Maud the niece and one of the co-heirs of Walter de Lacy, obtained the king's precept to the Sheriff of Herefordshire for setting forth her purparty,

upon partition of the lands of the said Walter ; whereupon the Castle of Ludlow with its members, was in part thereof assigned to her, and became the inheritance of her son Peter de Genevill.

From the death of Llewelin the great in 1240 to the death of the second Llewelin, and the execution of David at Shrewsbury in 1283, the Marchers were engaged in continual warfare. It appears from a writ of the king, addressed to Sir Ralph Basset of Drayton, that on his landing at Dover, on the eve of St. Thomas the Apostle, (December 20th.) he was informed that Llewelin and his accomplices, unmindful of their fealty pledged to him, and in violation of the truce, had hostilely seized certain castles, &c. of his liege subjects. The writ, in consequence, summons Basset to be at Hereford on January 9th. 1262—3 ; and he afterwards calls certain of the Lords Marchers, namely, Roger and Hugh Mortimer, John Fitz Alan, both the John le Stranges, elder and younger, Hamo le Strange, Thomas Corbet, Griffith ap Wennewin, Fulke Fitz Warine, Ralph de Botiler, and Walter de Dunstanville, to meet James de Aldithle at Ludlow on the octaves of the purification. In the severe conflict which ensued it required the prompt and active exertions of Prince Edward, as well as the sovereign ; and though the gallant prince, soon compelled Llewelin to take refuge

in the strong holds of Snowdon, yet such was the unsettled state of affairs at this juncture, that Edward was unable effectually to restrain the incursions of the Welsh, being hastily summoned to London, for the purpose of opposing the rebellious attempts of De Montford and the Earl of Leicester.

Early in the spring of 1264 Montford marched his army from Worcester into these parts, and took possession of Bridgnorth, and of Shrewsbury. The fatal convention at Lewes, soon afterwards threw the king into the hands of Leicester and his party. Roger Mortimer and the principal of the Lords Marchers took up arms to rescue their captive sovereign, and opposing the united forces of De Montfort and Llewelin, were overcome, and compelled to submit to their opponents and sign a treaty concluded at Montgomery. The victors having previously taken the castles of Hereford, Hay, and Ludlow, and ravaged the estates of Mortimer.

In 1276—7, Edward I. having constituted Roger de Mortimer his general against the Welsh, and having issued a pardon to all of that nation who would desert Llewelin ap Griffith, "our rebel" (as he calls him), summoned the army, by writ issued at Windsor, Dec. 12, to meet at Worcester, in the octave of St. John Baptist, and to encrease his force to the utmost, directed that Bishops and Abbots should not be

excused from serving, and that the Sheriffs should summon all the tenants *in capite*. The king himself left Shrewsbury for Wales on the 16th. of October in the Autumn following, and his operations were so vigorous that Llewelin was obliged to submit to the hard conditions of the conqueror before the end of the year. A new struggle commenced in the beginning of the year 1282. Llewelin having long with difficulty suppressed the indignant feelings of pride and resentment, and suffering under the oppressions of the English ministers, again was roused to attempt an unequal warfare against the king. Edward expressed great concern and deep resentment on account of what he pleases to term ingratitude in the Welsh Prince, as we learn from his letter to the king of Castile, excusing himself from lending his assistance against the Saracens. "Before your messengers came," says he, "namely, in the time of the Lord's passion, when Judas betrayed our Lord, our traitors, Llewelin ap Griffith and David his brother who were our familiars and counsellors, traitorously rose against us with all their Welsh, invading the lands of our march, killing our lieges, and burning our villages and towns."

On this occasion Edward, by sending a powerful army against the insurgents, had the satisfaction of bringing the contest to a speedy close; the ill-fated Llewelin fell near Builth, on Friday

Dec. 11. This Prince was said to be slain seditiously; from which is to be inferred that the fatal wound was received in the struggles of a crowd, and that several contended for the honour of killing him. He was unarmed, and there were found in the sleeve of his vest, his signet, and a written paper containing feigned names and darkly mysterious expressions, from which (says the Archbishop of Canterbury in his letter to the Court) "it appears that certain Noblemen near the Welsh, either marchians or other, are disaffected to our lord the king." His grace adds, "Dame Mahaud Longespeye prayed me to pronounce sentence of absolution upon the prince, to the intent that he might be interred in holy ground;" but that he declined doing, unless she would bring evidence that Llewelin discovered signs of repentance in his last moments.

This benevolent lady was cousin-german to the deceased, being the daughter and sole heiress of Walter de Clifford, lord of Conston and Culmington near Ludlow, by Margaret, daughter of Llewelin the great. Her first husband, William Longspe, was son of William Earl of Salisbury; but she was at this time wife of John Gifford of Brimfield, who little partook of her sentiments, if it be true that he sent the unfortunate Prince's head to London, to be fixed on the Tower, encircled with a wreath of ivy, in derision of those claims to the crown of Britain,

to which he was encouraged by his bards to aspire : it has been said that Edward, aware of the influence which these venerable men possessed over the minds of their countrymen, caused all who fell into his hands to be put to death.

Before the end of the year 1283 the destruction of the British dynasty was completed, and the unfortunate David, with his wife and children, brought to the king, who, however, refused to comply with the earnest entreaty of the miserable captive to throw himself at his majesty's feet. He was sent in chains to stand before the tribunal of his enemies, at Shrewsbury. With every reasonable presumption of descent and national preference, conceiving himself to be an independent Prince, he was tried as a vassal to the crown of England. He was not permitted to dispute the fact of his vassalage, neither was it the usage of that age to allow an advocate to plead his cause ; his brief trial ended in his being condemned to a cruel and ignominious death ; being the first who suffered the penalty of the then new Law of Treason. He was dragged by horses to the place of execution, even, as is supposed, without a hurdle to lay on ; hung up and taken down alive ; and his bowels taken out and burned before his face ; and when at length beheaded and released from his misery, his body divided into quarters, and his head conveyed to that of his

brother in London : a consummation of barbarian cruelty altogether adverse to every principle of justice and deserving universal execration; though sanctioned by a law which yet disgraces the country by being retained in our statute books.

In the thirty-first of Edward I. A. D. 1303, Roger de Mortimer married Joane, the widow of Peter de Genevill, son of Geoffrey de Genevill, and became Lord of Ludlow Castle. In the fourteenth of Edward II. A. D. 1321, having united himself with the discontented Barons of the realm, he was committed a prisoner to the Tower, from which he found means to escape, A. D. 1323 ; and in memory of this deliverance he caused a chapel to be built in honour of St. Peter, in the outer ward of Ludlow Castle, for one priest to celebrate mass perpetually therein.

This distinguished personage, raised by a daring course of crimes to that "bad eminence" from which he was at last precipitated, was created Earl of March in the first year of Edward III. He was afterwards made Justice of Wales by that monarch, whom he entertained most sumptuously during his progress into the Marches of Wales, at his castles of Ludlow and Wigmore.

The reign of the second Edward had been disgraced by the wickedness and cruelty which follows a system of favoritism ; and weakly sub-

mitting to the guidance of a depraved woman and her partizans, he ultimately lost his crown and his life. "Never," says Speed, "did English earth at one time drink so much blood of her nobles, in so vile a manner shed ; their enemies, not contented with their blood, procured also the confiscation of their estates and inheritances." "But, Mortimer," exclaims the historian, "there will be a time, when the cry of this, and other blood sacrificed to thy private revenge, (whilst thou abuses the public trust) will never give over the pursuit, till it hath deservedly drawn thine in lieu thereof."

"*Nemesis*, or rather God's vengeance, with swift pace did now approach and summon Mortimer to a bloody account. Oh what enchantments are honour and power to the minds of men ! how suddenly and how strangely do they blow up the same with the contempt of others, and forgetfulness of themselves ? Certainly the frail state of man's constitution is clearly seen in this high lord, who, drunken with felicity, and fearing neither God nor man, fell into utter confusion when he least feared." Mortimer was at last seized by the king himself, assisted by his attendants, in Nottingham Castle.

"There was in the Castle of Nottingham (and at this day is) a certain secret way or mine, cut through a rock, upon which the said castle is built, one issue whereof openeth toward the

river which runs under it, and the other venteth itself far within upon the surface, and is (at this present) called Mortimer's hole; through this the young king (Edward III.) well armed, and strongly seconded, was conducted by some of his trusty and sword servants, with drawn swords, up to the Queen's chamber, whose door was unshut, and with her was Mortimer, ready to go to bed, whom, with the slaughter of a knight, and one or two that resisted, they laid hold upon. This was not reputed a slender enterprize, in regard that in Mortimer's retinue were not fewer than one hundred and three score knights, beside esquires and gentlemen." The articles of impeachment against Mortimer are to be found as follows in the celebrated poem of the "*Mirroure of Magistrates*."

"Five hainous crimes against him soon were had.

1. First that he cauda the King to yeild the Scott,
(To make a peace) townes that were from him got.
And therewithall the Charter called Ragman;
2. That of the Scots he had bribed privy gaine.
3. That through his meanes Sr. Edward of Carnarvon
In Barkley Castle most traiterously was slain.
4. That with his Prince's mother he had laine,
5. And finally with polling at his pleasure,
Had rob'd the King and Commons of their treasure."

"But the most barbarous murder of the King's father, and especially the dishonourable peace and contract with the then professed enemies of England, were principally insisted upon as heinous treason. He was after sentence ignominiously drawn to Tyburn, the common place of execution, then called the Elmes, and there

upon the common gallows was as ignominiously executed, hanging (by the King's commandment) two days and two nights, a public and gladsome spectacle." This happened in the year 1330. A grandson of the Earl, of the same name, succeeded to his title and estates, who, desirous of possessing the Lordship of Ludlow entire, gave the manor of Crendon, in Buckinghamshire, to Sir William de Ferrars of Groby, in exchange for that moiety of this manor and town which had descended to the Ferrars family.

Ludlow continued for a long series of years in the possession of the Mortimers, from whom descended a great and noble family in the chief line of it; it also branched forth into the considerable ones of Richard's Castle, Attilbury, Chirk, and Chilmere, all barons and great men in their generations; of whom Sir William Dugdale mentions,—"How great, how pious, how numerous these Mortimers were, and lastly how honourably the name went out, being wrapt up in the crown by an heir general."

In 1399 Henry Duke of Lancaster on his route into Wales to circumvent the unfortunate Richard II. passed through Ludlow, to join the Lords Scales and Bardolph, Sir Robert and Sir John Leigh, and other gentlemen of Cheshire; and at this period the conflict between the houses of York and Lancaster began, when on the deposition of Richard, the Duke ascended

the throne under the title of Henry IV. and the Mortimer family from this period became distinguished as competitors with the Lancastrians for the English crown.

Henry was the son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III. His title however was not a just one, for Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. left a daughter named Philippa, from whom descended the House of York.

Edmund Mortimer, uncle to Richard Plantagenet, having been declared heir apparent to the crown by Richard II. previous to that Prince's unfortunate Irish expedition, was on that account kept a close prisoner during the whole of the reigns of Henry IV. and Henry V. His conference with his nephew, as given by our great dramatic bard, is in a high degree interesting.

SCENE, A PRISON.

Enter Mortimer, brought in a chair, and Jailors.

Mor. Kind keepers of my weak decaying age
Let dying Mortimer here rest himself.
E'en like a man new haled from the rack,
So fare my limbs with long imprisonment:
And these grey locks, the pursuivants of death,
Nestor-like aged in an age of care,
Argue the end of Edmund Mortimer.
These eyes, like lamps whose wasted oil is spent,
Wax dim, as drawing to their exigent.
Weak shoulders overborne with burthening grief,
And pithless arms, like to a wither'd vine
That droops his sapless branches to the ground:
Yet are these feet, whose strengthless stay is numb,
(Unable to support this lump of clay)
Swift-winged with desire to get a grave;
As witting, I no other comfort have.
But tell me keeper, will my nephew come?
Keep. Richard Plantagenet, my Lord, will come—

Mor. Enough; my soul then shall be satisfy'd.
 Poor gentleman, his wrong doth equal mine.
 Since Henry Monmouth first began to reign,
 (Before whose glory I was great in arms,)
 This loathsome sequestration have I had;
 And even since then, hath Richard been obscure'd,
 Depriv'd of honour and inheritance.
 But now the arbitrator of despairs,
 Just death, kind umpire of men's miseries,
 With sweet enlargement doth dismiss me hence.

Enter Richard Plantagenet.

Keep. My Lord, your loving nephew now is come.

Mor. Richard Plantagenet, my friend, is he come?

Plan. I noble uncle, thus ignobly us'd;
 Your nephew,——

Mor. Direct mine arms, I may embrace his neck,
 And in his bosom spend my latest gasp.
 Oh, tell me, when my lips do touch his cheeks;
 That I may kindly give one fainting kiss.

Plan. First lean thine aged back against mine arm;
 And now, good uncle, for my father's sake,
 In honour of a true Plantagenet,
 And for alliance sake, declare the cause
 My father Earl of Cambridge lost his head.

Mor. This cause, fair nephew, that imprison'd me;
 And hath detain'd me all my flowing youth
 Within a loathsome dungeon, there to pine,
 Was cursed instrument of his decease.

Plan. Discover more at large what cause that was,
 For I am ignorant and cannot guess.

Mor. I will, if that my fading breath permit;
 And death approach not, ere my tale be done.
 Henry the fourth, grandfather to this king,
 Depos'd his cousin Richard, Edward's son;
 The first begotten, and the lawful heir
 Of Edward, king, the third of that descent,
 During whose reign the Percies of the north,
 Finding his usurpation most unjust,
 Endeavour'd my advancement to the throne.
 The reason mov'd these warlike lords to this,
 Was, for that young king Richard thus remov'd,
 Leaving no heir begotten of his body,
 I was the next by birth and parentage.
 But mark; as in this haughty great attempt
 They laboured to plant the rightful heir;
 I lost my liberty and they their lives.
 Long after this, when Henry the fifth,
 After his father Bolingbroke, did reign,
 Thy father, Earl of Cambridge, (then deriv'd
 From famous Edmund Langley, Duke of York,
 Marrying my sister, that thy mother was);
 Again in pity of my hard distress
 Levied an army, meaning to redeem
 And re-install me in the diadem:
 But as the rest, so fell that noble Earl,
 And was beheaded. Thus the Mortimers,

In whom the title rested, were suspect.

Plan. Of which, my Lord, your Honour is the last,

Mor. True; and thou seest that I no issue have;

And that my fainting words do warrant death:

Thou art my heir; the rest I wish thee gather:

But yet be wary in thy studious care.

With silence, nephew, be then politic:

Strong-fixed is the house of Lancaster,

And like a mountain not to be remov'd.

But now thy uncle is removing hence;

As Princes do their courts, when they are cloy'd

With long continuance in a settled place.

Plan. O uncle, would some part of my young years

Might but redeem the passage of your age!

Mor. Thou dost then wrong me, as that slaught'rer doth,

Who giveth many wounds when one will kill.

Mourn not, except thou sorrow for my good;

Only give orders for my funeral.

And so farewell; and fair befall thy hopes,

And prosperous be thy life in peace and war! *(dies.)*

Plan. And peace, no war, befall thy parting soul!

In prison hast thou spent a pilgrimage,

And, like an hermit, overpast thy days.

Well; I will lock his counsel in my breast;

And what I do imagine, let that rest.

Keepers, convey him hence; and I myself

Will see his burial better than his life.

Here lies the dusky torch of Mortimer,

Choak'd with ambition of the meeker sort.

During the unquiet reign of Henry IV. the marches were kept in an almost constant state of disturbance and alarm by the celebrated Owen Glendower, whose hostilities against the English were at first excited by repeated acts of injustice: the court having sanctioned or allowed Lord Grey of Ruthin to wrest from Glendower a considerable part of his inheritance. Glendower's first act was to repossess himself of his lands, and further to indemnify himself, he also seized part of Lord Grey's possessions. Being on this account proscribed and assailed as a traitor, he assumed the title of Prince of Wales, and roused his countrymen to join his standard,

and endeavour to liberate themselves from the yoke of England, which the arbitrary conduct of the Lords Marchers had rendered intolerable. The family of Mortimer had made themselves particularly obnoxious to Glendower, and his arms were frequently directed against them. The strongest castle on the frontier was supposed to be that of Radnor, belonging to Sir Roger Mortimer; this, with numerous other places of importance, was visited with fire and sword. In the course of these successful incursions of Glendower, his inveterate enemy, Lord Grey, fell into his hands, and was secured in the recesses of Snowdon; but he was eventually released, on the payment of ten thousand marks. During these ravages the scene of contest was frequently extended to Herefordshire and Shropshire: and a general engagement took place near Knighton, between Glendower and an army under the command of Sir Edmund Mortimer, uncle to the young Earl. The contest was extremely obstinate and sanguinary: Glendower at last gained the victory, and in a personal encounter with Sir Edmund, took him prisoner. Mortimer lost eleven hundred men, mostly slain on the field of battle.

Fictitious accounts of the death of this celebrated chief are to be found in the monkish legends; it is, however, certain that he died on the 20th, of September, 1415, in the sixty-first

year of his age ; and most probably at the house of his daughter, married to Roger Monington, at Monington in Herefordshire. It is in a high degree probable, that in his last hours, he would seek in the arms of his children, that repose, which fifteen years of turbulent activity had rendered so necessary. Of his five daughters, Janet was married to John Croft of Croft Castle, and the others to persons of note and respectability.

When Richard Plantagenet Earl of Cambridge was beheaded by Henry V. and his brother the Duke of York was slain at the battle of Agincourt, his title and estates descended to the second Richard Plantagenet, who would probably never have attempted to dethrone Henry VI. had not the people by their uneasiness under his government, seemed to invite him to the undertaking.

In the year 1450, the Duke of York laid violent hands on his avowed enemies, John Sutton Lord Dudley, Reignald Abbot of St. Peter's at Glastonbury, and another person, whom he imprisoned in his Castle of Ludlow. The same year he published a letter about the government of the town ; the purport of which is to confirm and authorize the continuance of the "rule, councel and governance of the said town, by the *Twelve* and *Twenty-five*," as formerly, "sythe the time that no mind is." The style of

the Duke in this instrument is "Earl of March, and of Ulster, Lord of Clare, of Wigmore, and of Ludlow."

It seems to have been the policy of the Lancastrian usurpers, conscious of their want of a just title to the crown, to pacify the house of York by the allowance of posts of honour and profit. It might therefore naturally be expected, that the first attempts against the sovereign to whom they had sworn allegiance, would be attended with some scruples of conscience, as well as apprehensions of danger. Indeed it is evident that the paltry system of duplicity by which the Duke conducted his undertaking, was that which is only adopted or vindicated by those whom fear or wickedness induces to throw a veil over their real intentions. A system seldom ultimately successful, though, unfortunately for mankind, too often made use of.

The Duke's first complaints were against the administration, and might seem to have been fairly attributable to the misfortunes by which he was then assailed: the loss of Caen, the seigniory of which had been given to him by the king, and the representation made to him by the governor of the place, (Sir David Hall, the ancestor of the Chronicler of that name) that it had been given up by the Duke of Somerset without sufficient cause, roused his indig-

nation ; Sir David on this occasion repaired to his lord in Ireland, where he had been sent to suppress a rebellion, and at the time was smarting under a sense of injury ; the ministers having sent him on this expedition with a force totally inadequate to the undertaking. Anticipating the loss of his Irish estates, descended to him from the Lacies and De Burghs, and combining this with his other grievances, the Duke determined to quit his government and return to England, for the purpose of attacking the ministry and endeavouring to place himself at the head of affairs. In his letter to his friends on this occasion, after complaining of the nonpayment of the necessary supplies, whereby he was unable to resist the rebels, he says, "my power cannot stretch to keepe it (Ireland) in the king's obeisance, and verie necessitie will compell me to come into England to live there upon my poore livelihood. For I had leaver be dead than anie inconveniencie should fall thereunto by my default, for it shall never be chronicled, nor remain in scripture, (by the grace of God) that Ireland was lost by my negligence. For I have example in other places (more pitie it is) for to dread shame, and for to acquit my troth unto the king's highnesse, as my dutie is." This letter is dated 15th June, 1450, and the town of Caen fell into the hands of the French in the same month and year.

On the Duke's departure from Ireland without leave, his enemies in the administration determined if possible to seize his person; or at least to bar his approach to the king. He escaped, however, from their attempts to intercept him, and arrived in London whilst the parliament was sitting. The majority of the lower house was decidedly in his interest, and it appears to have been at this juncture that he addressed a letter to the king, in which, styling himself "his humble sujet and lyge man," he beseeches him to do justice upon traitors. The king's conciliating answer served only to increase the ardour of the Duke, who determined to take up arms, under the pretence of effecting a change in the ministry. Early in the following year, February 3, 1451—2, he was busily employed in raising an army in the Marches, and writes from Ludlow to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, requesting their assistance. In order to palliate his proceedings, he published a declaration, dated at his Castle of Ludlow, and signed with his own hand and seal, in which he professed his allegiance to King Henry, stating that his army was raised solely for the purpose of redressing certain grievances, &c. feeding in this manner the public mind with vague and frivolous excuses, as an extenuation of his conduct.

Time however disclosed his real designs; for soon after the death of Lord Audley, at Blore

Heath, in Staffordshire, he threw off the mask, openly avowed his pretensions to the throne, and appointed the Castle of Ludlow the place of rendezvous for his adherents. On which the royal army, then stationed at Worcester, was ordered to march against him.

On the approach of the Royalists to Ludford, the Bishop of Salisbury was sent into the town, with an offer of a general amnesty, if they would surrender. This being approved of by the inhabitants, and violently opposed by the soldiers, a contest arose between them in which many of the former were destroyed.

These disputes could not fail to weaken the resolution of the besieged, and this is apparent from the submissive letter sent to the king as stated by Speed.—“The Earl of Salisbury in this sort opened to himself a way to Ludlow, where the head of their combination, the Duke of York, busied himself to gather forces: being met, they conclude, that seeing the matter was now become deadly, they would deal in clouds no longer, but fight it out to the extremity. Men are drawn out of all parts with large hopes and promises of sharing in their fortunes, and the Earl of Warwick bringing with him from Calais that valiant captain Andrew Trollop, and a band of stout and choice soldiers, comes to the general rendezvous of the Yorkists, the Castle of Ludlow.”

"The King in the mean space hath assembled a great puissance of faithful subjects, and being attended with the Dukes of Somerset and Exeter, and other of his chief friends, marcheth against his enemies. His first work was to offer them general pardon. It is refused, and called by them a *staff of reed*, or *glass buckler*. The sword must decide the quarrel. Whereupon the King commands his standards to advance: while he was on his march, a letter fraught with the wonted hypocrisies, is delivered to the King. In it among many other insinuations are these. "Most christian King, right high and mighty Prince, and our most dread sovereign Lord, &c. We sent unto your good grace by the Prior of the cathedral church of Worcester and divers other Doctors, and among others by Mr. William Linwood, Doctor of Divinity, which ministered unto us severally the blessed sacrament of the body of Jesus, whereupon we and every of us deposed of our truth and duty, &c." But the letter made no overtire of any course upon which they would yield to lay down arms, alledging, "they would but make their way to the king for redress of abuses, and that they were enforced to stand together for their own defence, against such great courtiers and favourites, as intended their destruction."

"The king is now in sight, whom the triumvirs, York, Warwick, and Salisbury, being

strongly entrenched before Ludlow, mean to assail. Andrew Trollop, who had in the king's pay done great service upon the French, was acquainted with all their council, and finding himself extremely deceived, (for he thought, and so by the Earl of Warwick was made to believe, that the preservation of the king was intended, and not his destruction,) abandons the Yorkists camp at midnight, and with a choice number of trusty men presents himself and services to the king, who graciously received him." This unexpected occurrence destroyed the hopes of the Yorkists, who immediately fled; the Duke and his youngest son reached Ireland, and the Earls of March, Warwick, and Salisbury with much difficulty escaped to Calais.

Fabyan gives the following account of this affair.—"Whereof herynge the sayde Duke, then beyng with his people nere vnto the towne of Ladlowe, pyght there a sure and stronge feilde that none of his foes myght vpon any parte entre. Where he so lyinge, came to hym from Calys the Erle of Warwyke with a stronge bande of men, amonge the whiche was Andrewe Trollop, and many of other of the beste souldyours of Calys. The Duke thus keepynge his feilde vpon that one party, and the Kynge with his people vpon that other, vpon the nyght preceding the day that both hoostes shuld have met, the fornamed Andrewe Trollop, with all the chefe

soaldyours of Calys, secretly departed from the Duke's boost and went vnto the Kinges, where they were ioyously receyued. When this thyng to the Duke and the other lords was ascerteyned, they were therewith sore dysmayed, and especyallye, for the sayde lordes hadde to the sayde Andrewe shewyd the hoole of theyre ententys, which than they knewe well shuld be clerelye dyscoveryd vnto theyr enemyes: wherefore after cunceyll for a remedy taken, they concludyd to flee, and leve the feilde standyng as they had ben present and styll abydyng. And so, incontinentlye the sayde Duke with his ii sones, and fewe other parsonys, fled towarde Wals, and from thens passed sauely into Irelande.

And forthwith the Kynge rode vnto Ludlowe & dyspoyled the towne and castell, and sent the Duchesse of Yorke, with hyr chyldeyn, vnto the Duchesse of Buckingham his syster, where she restyd long after."

On the surrender of the place, the greater part of the garrison was pardoned; but the castle was stripped of all its costly ornaments, and the town forcibly plundered of every thing valuable. According to Hall, the Duchess of York with her two younger sons and her sister, were taken in the place, and confined for some time afterwards in one of the outer towers.

In the succeeding Parliament, held at Coventry, the following persons were attainted of high

treason, and their estates confiscated, as appears from Fenn's Original Letters, vol. 1, page 182.

The Duc of York
Therie of Marche
Therie of Rutland
Therie of Warwyk
Therie of Salisbury
The Lord Powys
The Lord Clynton
*The Countesse of Sarr
Sir Thomas Nevyle
Sir John Nevyle
Sir Thomas Haryngton
Sir Thom's o Parre
Sir John Conyers

*Alice Daughter and heir of Thomas Montague, Earl of Salisbury, wife of Richard Neville, in her right, Earl of Salisbury.

Sir John Wenlok
Sir Wm. Oldhall
Edward Bourghcier
A broy' of his
Thom's Vaugh'n
Thom's Colte
Thomas Clay
John Denham
Thomas Moryng
John Oter
Maist: Ric. Fisher

Hastyngs and oy' that as yet we can not know y'e names, &c. As for y'e Lord Powys he came inne and hadde g'ce as for his lyf, but as for his goods y'e forfeture passed.

Ludlow and its Castle continued in this dismantled state until after the battle of Wakefield, in which the Duke of York was slain and many of his followers cruelly put to death, after having surrendered themselves to the promised mercy of the enemy. The infant son of the Duke murdered in cold blood, and the barbarous cruelty of the Queen to her captive enemy has been enlarged on by historians. "Cruel joy," says Speed, "is seldom fortunate. *Cæsar* wept over *Pompeis* head, but the Queen (ignorant how many causes of tears were reserved for her own share) makes herself merry with the ghastly and bloody spectacle of the Duke's head crowned with paper." Cruelty and murder excite the abhorrence and detestation of mankind, and seldom escape punishment. The unfortunate father, when the handkerchief drenched in the blood of

his child is given to him, is made to exclaim,—

“That face of his the hungry cannibals
Would not have touch'd, would not have stain'd with blood;
But you are more inhuman, more inexorable,—
O, ten times more,—than tigers of Hyrcania.
See, ruthless Queen, a hapless father's tears:
This cloth thou dipp'dst in blood of my sweet boy,
And I with tears do wash the blood away.
These tears are my sweet Rutland's obsequies;
And every drop cries vengeance for his death,—
'Gainst thee, fell Clifford,—and thee false French woman.”

His execrations were prophetic, “for the Earl of March, son and heir to the late valiant Duke, hearing of this tragical adventure, with the death of his noble father and loving brother and trusty frendes, was wonderfully amazed; but after comfort given to him by his faithful lovers and assured alyes,” he visited Shrewsbury, Ludlow, and the neighbourhood of the Marches, where he quickly raised a considerable army, keeping his flag, as a signal of rendezvous, flying upon the lofty summit of Wigmore Castle.

The Queen, fearful of his rising power, dispatched the Earl of Pembroke with a strong force to oppose him. Young Edward marched out against his enemies, whom he met in a plain near Mortimer's Cross, where a desperate and bloody battle was fought. On the morning preceding the engagement, there appeared to the Earl and his friends a meteor in the heavens resembling the junction of three suns:—

“Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun;
Not separated by the racking clouds,
But sever'd in a pale clear shining aky.
—They join, embrace, and seem to kiss,
As if they vow'd some league inviolable:
Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun.”

This phænomenon, favourably considered as a supernatural indication of success, helped to inspire courage and resolution in the ensuing struggle; it was in consequence of this occurrence, that the badge or device born by Edward as Earl of March, was a sun in its full brightness; because the sun of honour and fortune did indeed then begin to shine upon him, through clouds of blood and misery. The battle took place, according to Speed, on Candlemas Day, in the year 1461. Both parties continued the contest with a furious resolution, but in the end the Earl of March obtained a complete victory, killing three thousand eight hundred of his opponents. The poet Daniel describes the youthful Mortimer as the hero of the day;—

"Now is young Marche more than a Duke of Yorke,
(For youth, love, grace, and courage make him more)
All which for fortune's favour now do worke,
Who graces freshest actors evermore,
Making the first attempt the chiefeſt worke
Of any man's designe that strives therefore;
The after seasons are not so well bleſt,
For those first ſpirites make the first actions beſt.

Now like the libian lion when with paine
The weary hunter had purſu'd his prey
From rockes to brakes, from thicketts to the plaine,
And at the poynſt thronſon his hands to lay,
Hard by his hopes, his eie vpon his gaine,
Out rancking from his deuine raps all away:
So comes young Marche their hopes to disappoint
Who now were growne ſo meere vnto the poynſt.

— With a thouſand tongſ swift-wing'd fame comes,
And tells of Marche's gallant victories,
Who what withstands subdues, all overcomen,
Making his way through fiercest enemys,
As having now to eſt in greater ſommes
The reckning of his hopes, that mainly rise;
His father's death, gives more life unto wrath,
And this last valour, greatest courage hath.

And now as for his last, his lab'ring worth
 Workes on the coast which on fair Severne lies,
 Whither, when Yorke set forward for the north,
 Hee's sent to levie other fresh supplies:
 But hearing now what Wakefield had brought forth,
 Imploring ayde against these injuries,
 Obtains from Gloster, Worster, Murewsbury,
 Important powres to worke his remedy;

Which he against Pembroke and Ormond bends,
 Whom Margaret now upon her victory,
 With all speede possible from Wakefield sendes,
 With hope to have surpris'd him suddainly;
 Wherein though she all meanes, all wit extends,
 To th' utmost reach of wary pollicie,
 Yet nothing her avayles, no plots succeed
 T' avert those mischiefes which the heavens decreed.

For neere the Crosse christened by his owne name
 He crost those mighty forces of his foes,
 And with a spirit borne for eternall fame,
 Their eger fighting armes overthowes."—

Edward, having gained the battle of Mortimer's Cross, hastened from Ludlow on his march towards the Metropolis, where, upon his arrival, he was put in possession of the crown amidst the acclamations of the people, assuming the title of Edward IV. on the fourth of March, 1461, about the twentieth year of his age.

King Edward always evinced a favourable partiality towards the town of Ludlow, from whose inhabitants he had received such powerful assistance; and in the first year of his reign, granted the first Charter of Incorporation, in the preamble to which he recites the motives for this mark of his royal favour, viz.—"In consideration of the praiseworthy and gratuitous services, which our well beloved and faithful subjeets, the Burgesses of the town of Ladlow, have done in aid of recovering the right of the

crown of England, withheld from us and our ancestors, and being therefore desirous for the bettering and relief of the town," &c. Other important royal favours were also granted to Ludlow during this Prince's reign, as stated by the poet Churchyard :

"King Edward fourth, for service truely done,
When Henry sixth and he had mortal warre:
No sooner he by force the victorie woue
But with great things the towne he did prefare.
Gave lands thereto, and libertie full large,
Which royal gifts his bountie did declare,
And dayly doth maintain the townes great charge:
Whose people now in as great freedom are,
As any men under this rule and crowne,
That lives and dwels in citie or in towne."

It also appears that Edward's munificence assisted in recovering Ludlow from the fallen and desolate state to which it had been reduced by adhering to his father's cause. Many parts of the town were rebuilt by the inhabitants, large sums were expended on the Castle, and in a few years after we find it become the princely residence of his eldest son, who held his court here in great pomp and splendor.

Neither was Edward attached to this part of the kingdom merely from motives of gratitude, he spent all the leisure time he could spare from the weighty occupations of his situation, in the Castles of Ludlow and Wigmore. Lady Anne Neville, daughter to the great Earl of Warwick, was his favourite: she kept her court in Wigmore Castle, and all that was gay and fashionable in the adjacent parts of the

country resorted thither to partake of the pleasures of the place.

This may account as a reason why, on any emergency, Edward generally resorted into these parts to raise assistance ; for the Lords Marchers, tied down to him by repeated favours, acknowledged the same interests, and were animated by the same passions ; connected besides with their sovereign by the incidents of tenure, formed by a train of mutual good offices and reciprocal attentions, they not only added to his magnificence in time of peace, but proved his greatest security in the trying seasons of hostility.

Fatal, says one of our historians, for England was the ascension of the House of York to the throne : if the reign of Henry VI. was bloody, that of Edward IV. was not less so ; the two and twenty years of his regal life being, with few intermissions, one continued struggle against his enemies, whose efforts were powerfully exerted to wrest from him the crown to which he had raised himself. After a reign stained with blood and perplexed with difficulties, Edward died at the age of 42, with a presentiment of the evils which his family afterwards suffered. His last dying words, which were urgent in advising concord and unanimity, were addressed to those who were unwilling to promote peace by acts of justice and righteousness ; to a society of relatives who secretly hated each other ;

to a brother, who, under the semblance of smiles and friendship, was plotting murder and usurpation. Hall has given the character of this monarch in expressive language. "This Edward was a goodly man of personage, of stature hyghe, of countenance and beautee comely, of sight quicke, brode brested, and welle sette in every other parte conformable to his bodye, of a pregnant wytte, stomake stoute, and haulte courage, of perfect memori of such thinges as he conceiued in his braine, diligent in his affaires and weighti business, in aventures bold and hardy, againe his adversaries feare and terryble, to his frendes liberal and bounteous, having in all his warres most prosperous and lucky successe, and eschewing all pleasure and sensualitee, to the which he was by nature most prone, for the which cause and for the lowlines and humanitie that was in hym engendered by nature most plentifullly, he bare himself honestly among private persons, otherwise then the degré or dignite of his majeste required."

Under the superintendance of Lord Anthony Woodville Earl Rivers, brother to the queen, the young Princes, Edward and his brother the Duke of York, had been resident in Ludlow Castle some time previous to their removal on the event of their father's death, and the former was proclaimed as Edward V. previous to their departure.

Their wicked and ambitious uncle, whose thoughts were intent on their destruction, contrived to separate the Princes from their tutor and his associates before they arrived in London ; for without any reasonable pretence he arrested while on their journey, the Earl Rivers, Lord Gray, Sir Thomas Vaughan, and Sir Richard Hawt, who were all soon after beheaded at Pomfret.

The investment of the infant Prince with the title of King, was a cruel mockery, for in about two months after leaving their peaceful asylum of Ludlow, the royal brothers were murdered in the Tower.

The usurper, Richard III. immediately after his coronation, sent one James Tyrrel to the governor of the Tower, with an order signed by his own hand to deliver to him the government of that fortress for the space of twenty-four hours, and to give him the keys of all the rooms. Tyrrel being thereby master of the Tower, "devised that they shoulde be murthered in their beddes, and no bloud shed : to the execution whereof, he appointed Myles Forest one of the foure that before kepte them, a felowe fleshed in murther before tyme ; and to him he joyned one Jhon Dighton his owne horse-keeper, a bygge broad square and strong knave. Then al the other beyng removed from them, this Myles Forest and Jhon Dighton, aboute mydnight, the

sely children lyng in their beddes, came into the chaumbre and sodenlie lapped them up amongest the clothes, and so bewrapped them and entangled them, kepyng doun by force the fetherbed and pillowes hard unto their mouthes, that within a while they smored and stifled them, and their breathes failyng, they gave up to God their innocent solles into the joyes of heaven, leaving to the tormentours their bodies dead in the bed, which after the wretches perceyved, first by the strugglyng with the panges of death, and after long lying styl to be throughly dead, they laid the bodies out upon the bed and fetched James Tyrrel to see them."

Their bones were discovered in the reign of Charles II. by some labourers, who were digging at the foot of the old stairs leading into the chapel of the white tower, and were removed by the king's order to Henry the Seventh's chapel, and decently interred there, under a monument of white marble with an inscription in latin, of which the following is a translation ;—

Here lie, with the hope of Salvation, the remains of Edward V. King of England, and Richard Duke of York. Richard their uncle, the treacherous usurper of the Kingdom, ordered these brothers, shut up in the Tower of London, to be smothered with pillows thrown upon them, and secretly and basely buried. Their much wished for bones, for a long time diligently sought after, were found, and truly identified, deeply buried in the ruins of the stairs which formerly led to the Chapel in the White Tower. One hundred and ninety one years after their death, on the 17th day of July, 1674, the most compassionate King, Charles II. pitying their miserable end, paid due funeral rites to these unfortunate Princes, placing them among the monuments of their ancestors, A. D. 1688, in the 30th year of his reign.

Extraordinary gratuities were bestowed on

the murderers ; James Tyrrel was knighted and had given to him the stewardship of several lordships in Wales and the Marches, for life ; with numerous other offices and emoluments. The other inferior agents in this act of wickedness were proportionably rewarded. But Divine Providence never suffers crime to go unpunished, and often brings upon the wicked, even in this life, a foretaste of the chastisements they may most certainly look forward to in a life to come. The old Chronicles enlarge on the subject of the judgments which befel the perpetrators of this deed of darkness. Miles Forest, John Dighton, and Sir James Tyrrel, were the immediate agents ; of these, the first, "by piecemeal miserably rotted away." Dighton fled to Calais where he lingered out the last dregs of a bad life, hated and despised ; and there, "he died in great misery." Tyrrel was, on the accession of Henry VII. arraigned, and after a full confession beheaded on Tower hill ; and King Richard himself, "after this abhominal dede dooen never was quiet in his minde, he never thought hymself sure where he went abrode, his eyen wherled about, his hand ever on his dagger : he toke evill rest on nightes, lay long wakynge and musyng, forweried with care and watche, rather slombred then slept, troubled with fearfull dreames, sodeinly some tyme sterte up, leapt

out of his bed and looked aboute the chambres ; so was his restlesse hearte contynually tossed and tumbled with the tedious impression and stormy remembraunce of his abhominable murther and execrable tyrannie. He was slain in the feelde hacked and hewed of his enemies handes, haried on a horsebacke naked ; beying ded, his heare in dyspite torn and tugged like a curre dogge."

Few will doubt the truth of this account of the tyrant's inward feelings : and it is also perfectly natural to suppose even the hired agents of murder to be not unfrequently troubled with compunctionous misgivings : Shakespeare introduces Tyrel saying in soliloquy,—

"The tyrannous and bloody act is done;
The most arch deed of piteous massacre
That ever yet this land was guilty of:
Dighton and Forest, whom I did suborn
To do this piece of ruthful butchery,
Albeit they were flesht villains, bloody dogs,
Melted with tenderness and mild compassion
Wept like two children in their death's sad story:
O thus, quoth Dighton, lay the gentle babes,
Thus, thus, quoth Forest, girdling one another
Within their alabaster innocent arms:
Their lips were four red roses on a stalk,
And in their summer beauty kissed each other.
A book of prayers on their pillow lay,
.Which once, quoth Forest, almost changed my mind,
But oh the devil——there the villain stopt!
When Dighton thus told on, we smothered
The most replenished sweet work of nature
That from the prime creation e'er she framed.
Hence both are gone, with conscience and remorse
They could not speak, and so I left them both
To bear these tidings to the bloody king."

The agents of others iniquity may try to console themselves by attributing a larger share of criminality to those by whom they have been

hired, and by this weak mode of arguing quiet their own consciences ; but the instigator and author of crime can find no excuse to mitigate remorse, hence the ceaseless struggles in the mind of Richard, in peace, in retirement, and in his dreams ; even in the turbulence of warfare

"the little souls of Edward's children"

seem to fight against him, and he exclaims in bitter anguish,

*"O coward conscience! how dost thou afflict me!
I shall despair; there is no creature loves me;
And if I die no soul shall pity me."*

Richard enjoyed the fruits of his villainy only about two years ; he was slain at the battle of Bosworth Field. At his death the Civil Wars of England, arising out of the contested claims of the York and Lancaster families, were finally closed : for the Duke of Richmond on his elevation to the throne, married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV. and the true heiress of the house of York. By this marriage of policy, the interest of the two houses became permanently united.

The period now approached when Ludlow Castle was once more to recover its pristine pomp and magnificence.

Cadwalladr, the last of the British kings, had foretold that his race should in a future age regain the sovereignty ; and Henry VII. tracing his descent from that prince, did not fail to revive the recollection of this famous prophecy,

by which means the popular voice was effectually secured in his favour, the current belief being that he was predestinated to the high station he had attained. This prejudice was not a little strengthened by the more recent report of the dying words of Henry VI. which, it was asserted, expressed a presentiment of the revival of his name in the person of a more fortunate successor. To these circumstances operating in Henry Tudor's favour, we may also add, that he succeeded, not to a king respected and loved, but to a cruel and hateful tyrant.

In the year 1501, Prince Arthur, king Henry's eldest son, was married at the age of fifteen, to the Princess Catherine of Arragon, who was in the eighteenth year of her age. The marriage ceremony of this juvenile couple was celebrated with magnificence and parade, after which the Prince held a splendid court at Ludlow Castle, his former and future residence. An account of this marriage by Hall affords a curious specimen of the manners and language of those times.

—“Because I will not be tedious I passe over the wyee devises, the prudent speches, the costly woorkes, the conninge portratures practised and set foorth in VII goodly beutiful pageauntes erected and set up in diverse places of the citie. I leave also the goodly ballades, the swete armony, the musicall instrumentes, which sounded with heavenly noyes on every side of the strete.

I omit farther, the costly apparel both of gold-smythes woorke and embraudery, the ryche jewelles, the massy cheynes, the sturynge horses, the beutiful barbes and the glitteryng trappers, bothe with belles and spangles of golde. I pre-termit also the ryche apparelle of the pryncesse, the straunge fashion of the spanysh nacion, the beautie of the englishe ladyes, the goodly demeanure of the young damosels, the amorous countenaunce of the lusty bachelers. I passe over also the fyne engrayned clothes, the costly furres of the citezens, standyng on skaffoldes, rayled from Gracechurche to Paules. What should I speke of the oderiferous skarlettes, the fyne velvet, the pleasaunt furres, the massye chaynes, which the Mayre of London with the senate, sittinge on horsebacke at the litle conduyte in Chepe, ware on their bodyes, and about their neckes. I will not molest you with rehersyng the riche arras, the costly tapestry, the fyne clothes bothe of golde and silver, the curios vellettes, the beutiful sattens nor the pleasaunte sylkes, which did hange in every street where she passed, the wyne that ranne continually out of the conduytes, the graveling and rayling of the stretes nedeth not to be remembered."

The Princess came riding from Lambeth, Friday November 12th. through the borough of Southwark to London Bridge; where she was received with a costly pageant of St. Catherine,

St. Ursula, and a train of virgins. In her progress through the city other pageants were displayed, and the conduit in Cheap ran Gascoin wine. The marriage ceremony, on Sunday the 14th. of November, was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by nineteen bishops. The Prince and his bride were arrayed in white satin; and the splendour and magnificence of the nobility and courtiers, vieing with each other on this joyous occasion, was beyond example. Chains of gold were worn of the value of £1000 to £1400, and the rich needlework, tissue, and fur dresses were some of them valued at £1500 and upwards. Jousts and tournaments were exhibited for several days, with sumptuous banquets, disguisings, and interludes; and the celebrity concluded with a numerous creation of Knights of the Bath and of the Sword.

From these scenes of gaiety and spectacles of triumph the Prince hastened again to his province in the Marches; but he did not live to verify the hopes and expectations, which as well the nation in general, as those near his person, had largely entertained from the contemplation of his early virtues. He died universally regretted, in Ludlow Castle, the second of April 1502. The funeral was conducted with much mournful pomp; and the Bishop of Lincoln, President of the Prince's court, bore a principal part in the sacred offices attending it. The corpse was in-

veloped in cerements, and lay in state in the Castle, during the space of three weeks. Then on St. George's day in the afternoon, it was removed in solemn procession to the Church of St. Lawrence. The Earl of Surrey, as principal mourner, followed near to the corpse; and after him a long train of noblemen and others; among whom were many of the principal citizens of Chester, who had come thus far to attend the obsequies of their beloved Prince. His banner was borne before the corpse by Sir Griffiths ap Riee, who was preceded by bishops, abbots, and others. When the corpse was conveyed into the choir, the dirge began; and the Bishops of Lincoln, Salisbury, and Chester read the three lessons. On the morrow the Bishop of Lincoln sung the mass of requiem. Doctor Edenham, almoner and confessor to the Prince, "said a noble sermon, and took to his antyteme, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

On St. Mark's day the procession moved from Ludlow to Bewdley; and (observes the narrator) "it was the foulest cold windye and rainye daye, and the worst waye, that I have seen." The corpse was placed in the choir of the chapel, and dirge and mass of requiem were performed; and every church where it rested was decorated with escutcheons. When they came to Worcester, the order of Friars censed the corpse at the town's end; and at the city gate the bailiffs

and corporation met them. At the entrance of the churchyard, the Bishop of Worcester having now joined the train, the four bishops in rich copes censed the corpse; which was then borne under a canopy through the choir to a hearse illuminated with eighteen lights, and sumptuously garnished with arms. At dirge were nine lessons, after the custom of that church. The first five were read by abbots, the sixth by the prior of Worcester, the rest by bishops, the Bishop of Lincoln reading the ninth. That night there was a goodly watch of Lords and Knights, and many others.

At eight in the morning the sacred rites were resumed, when the third mass of requiem was sung by the Bishop of Lincoln. Customary offerings were made at the mass; "but to have seen the weeping after the offeringe was done, he had a hard heart that wept not." The sermon, "by a noble doctor," followed. After this all the prelates censed the corpse; and then "with weeping and sore lamentation it was laid in the grave," at the south end of the high altar, where were all the divine services. The orisons were said by the Bishop of Lincoln, also sore weeping. "He set the crosse over the chest, and cast holye water and earth thereon." The comptroller of the Prince's household, his steward, and others brake their staves of office, and cast them into the grave. And thus con-

cludes our author, "God have mercy on good Prince Arthur's soule."

Of this Prince, both contemporary and subsequent writers speak in terms of the warmest applause and admiration. His parts, his learning and accomplishments, far surpassed what could be expected from his youth, his rank, and the age in which he lived. But he, who from the conflict of human passions often produces great and unexpected good, had purposes to accomplish by the turbulence and impetuosity of Henry, the younger brother, which the mild virtues and suavity of Arthur would never have attempted.

Upon the prince's death all his titles and powers reverted to the crown; but Bishop Smyth continued president of the council, as well after, as before the Duke of York was created Prince of Wales; and held the office till his death. In one of the state apartments of the Castle the arms of Prince Arthur were "excellently wrought" in a superb escutcheon of stone; and there was an empalement of St. Andrew's cross, with prince Arthur's arms painted in one of the windows of the hall. His arms, two red lions and two golden lions, were also in another chamber, with the arms of north Wales, and south Wales. And in the chapel, which was "most trim and costly," the arms of Smyth and other Lords Presidents were "gallantly and cunningly set out."

Though Catherine had been publicly married to Arthur, yet during the few months of their union, the Prince's premature age and intervening sickness, ending in his death, had hindered actual consummation; and the Princess on her marriage with King Henry VIII. about six years afterwards, not only publicly upon oath declared this to be true, but offered herself to be examined by a committee of matrons. It was therefore under a presumption that the widow of his brother was only such in name, and not indeed, that Henry was persuaded to make this beautiful and virtuous Princess his Queen.

It is not credible, nor will any rational person believe, that after having lived with his amiable consort for more than twenty years, this libidinous monarch was induced to seek a divorce from scruples of conscience; indeed it has been handed down as a matter of undoubted historical fact that Henry having become violently in love with Anne Boleyn, sought some plausible pretext for gaining possession of this new object of his lustful wishes. The immediate consequence was the deposition of the Queen, and the exaltation of Anne, her rival, to the dangerous station from which she else fell, learning too late how much better it is

"To be lowly born,
And range with humble livers in content;
Than to be perk'd up in a glitt'ring grief,
And wear a goldan sorrow."

Catherine was deposed but not degraded, for true greatness joined to virtuous resolution defies all earthly power, and though depressed cannot be destroyed. Arraigned before the high consistorial court, from which she was to receive the premeditated sentence, the mockery of justice, this injured Queen, kneeling at the feet of the King, spake as follows.—

"Sir, I desire you to take some pitty upon mee and doe mee justice and right. I am a poore woman, a stranger borne out of your dominions, having here no indifferent councell, and less assurance of friendship. Alasse, wherein have I offended, or what cause of displeasure have I given, that you intend thus to put mee away! I take God to my judge I have been to you a true and humble wife, ever conformable to your will and pleasure, never gainsayng any thing wherein you tooke delight, without all grudge or discontented countenance; I have loved all them that loved you, howsoever their affections have been to me ward; I have borne you children, and been your wife now this twenty yeares; of my virginitie and marriage bed I make God and your owne conscience the judge, and if it otherwise be proved, I am content to be put from you with shame. The king your father in his time for wisdome was known to be a second Solomon, and Ferdinand of Spaine my father accounted the wisest of their Kings, could they in this match be so farre over-seen, or are there now wiser and more learned men than at that time were? surely it seemeth wonderfull to mee that my marriage after twenty yeares should be thus called in question with new invention against mee who never intended but honesty. Alasse, Sir. I see I am wronged, having no councell to speake for mee but such as are your subjects, and cannot be indifferent on my part. Therefore I most humbly beseech you, even in charity, to stay this course until I may have advice and councell from Spaine; if not, your gracious pleasure be done."

Having delivered this short address, the Queen "making lowly obeysance to the King," departed quickly out of court, which being perceived, she was again, by the cryer, called upon by the name of Queen Catherine, but she disdaining to answer, said to her attendant, "on, on, this is no court for me to expect an equitable judgment from; therefore go forward."

This pathetic speech seems to have made a

favourable impression even on the hearts of her enemies ; the court was prorogued, and finally a transfer of the cause was made to the See of Rome. The weight of the Queen's misfortunes lay heavy on her mind, and probably helped to shorten her days. If she charitably forgave her enemies, yet she did not cease to feel the injuries she had to suffer. Her false friends and hollow counsellors, who advised an unconditional submission to the will of her imperious husband, she addressed in language suitable to her high character and the baseness of those to whom it was directed.—

"I am about to weep; but thinking that
We are a Queen, or long have dream'd so; certain
The daughter of a King; my drops of tears
I'll turn to sparks of fire.

Holy men I thought ye,
Upon my soul two rev'rend Cardinal virtues;
But Cardinal sins and hollow hearts I fear ye:
Mend 'em for shame, my Lords, is this your comfort?
The cordial that ye bring a wretched Lady?
A woman lost among ye, laughed at, scorned!

Wo upon ye,
And all such false professors; would you have me
(If you have any justice, any pity,
If ye be any thing but Churchmen's habits)
Put my cause into his hands that hates me!
Have I lived thus long (let me speak myself,
Since virtue finds no friends) a wife, a true one?
A woman (I dare say without vain glory)
Never yet branded with suspicion;
Have I with all my full affections
Still met the King? loved him next to heaven, obeyed him!
Been out of fondness superstitious to him;
Almost forgot my prayers to content him!
And am I thus rewarded? 'tis not well, Lords.
My Lords, I dare not make myself so guilty,
To give up willingly that noble title
Your master wed me to: nothing but death
Shall e'er divorce my dignities.
Heaven is above all yet; there sits a Judge
That no King can corrupt."

With all the dignity that belonged to her ex-

alted station, the attributes of strong feeling and pious resignation were perfectly congenial, and a sense of what belonged to herself as a virtuous and injured Queen remained with her to the last.—

"Alas ! I am a woman, friendless, hopeless;
Shipwreck'd upon a kingdom where's no pity,
No friends, no hope ! no kindred weep for me !
Almost no grave allow'd me : like the lily
That once was mistress of the field and flourish'd,
I'll hang my head and perish.

When I'm dead, good wench,
Let me be us'd with honour; strew me over
With maiden flow'r's, that all the world may know
I was a chaste wife to my grave: embalm me,
Then lay me forth; although unqueen'd, yet like
A Queen and daughter to a King inter me."

Speed, who lived nearer the time than any of our historians, calls Catherine, "Henry's beauteous Queen," and it may well be believed that if she had not possessed the agreeableness of person, sweetness of disposition, and other admirable accomplishments attributed to her, she could not have succeeded in retaining the affections of the King during a period of twenty years. She was not only learned, but a patroness of learned men, particularly the celebrated Ludovicus Vives, and the great Erasmus, the latter of whom dedicated to her his book of *Christian Matrimony*, and expresses his high opinion of this excellent Princess, as having so well behaved herself in that state, till divorced by the King her husband: knowing how unjustly and barbarously she was used in that affair, he writes a consolatory epistle to her in a most

christian style, to support her under this affliction, putting her in mind of a marriage which is indissoluble, and that the afflictions she might meet with in this world, would have a happy issue as to her better part; that as she had cast anchor on him who could never fail her, so he would not have her much concerned at anything that had happened or could happen to her.

We learn from Burnet and Strype, that in her seclusion she was disturbed by frequent ineffectual applications requiring her to relinquish her title; many of her servants were put from her on that account; but she would accept no service from any that would not address her suitably to her former dignity, and conduct themselves accordingly. She was allowed the jointure as Princess Dowager, but all the women about her still addressed her as Queen.

“This Lady,” says Caussin, “was infinitely pious; she only attended to the affairs of heaven, and had already so little in her of earth, that she showed herself in all her deportment to be made for another kind of crown than that of England. Whilst her husband lived in riotous enjoyments and trampled on all laws human and divine, this poor Princess, who was looked on by all christendom as a perfect model of all virtue, was driven out of her palace and bed, amidst the tears and lamentations of all honest men, and went to Kimbolton, a place incommo-

dious and unhealthy, whilst another took possession both of the heart and sceptre of the King. So that here we may behold virtue afflicted, and a devotion so constant that the ruins of fortune, which made the world tremble, were unable to shake it. She remained in her seclusion with three waiting women, and four or five servants, a thousand times more content than she had lived in the highest glory of worldly honour, and having no tears to bewail herself, she lamented the miseries she left behind her."

Her constitution being consumptive, and the place she was in unhealthy, she desired leave to come nearer London; but the King would not grant her request. He even determined to remove her to Fotheringay Castle, where preparation was made for her reception; but when it was proposed to her, she plainly declared she would not go unless bound with chains as a prisoner. She fell dangerously ill in the latter end of December 1535, and about five days after, being very weak, and finding the time of her dissolution near, she ordered one of her gentlewomen (says Holinshed) to write a letter to the King, which she herself dictated. This letter is a decisive evidence of her true character: it breathes a spirit of christian resignation; with a wish to forget injuries; accompanied by that generosity which only belongs to virtuous and amiable minds.

My King and dearest Spouse,

Inasmuch as already the houre of my death approacheth, the love and affection I bear you causeth me to conjure you to have a care of the eternal salvation of your soule which you ought to preferre before mortal things, or all worldly blessings. It is for this immortal spirit you must neglect the care of your body, for the love of which you have throwne me headlong into many calamities and your owne selfe into infinite disturbances. But I forgive you with al my hart, humbly beseeching almighty God he will in heaven confirme the pardon I on earth give you. I recommend unto you our most deare Mary, your daughter and mine, praying you to be a better father to her than you have been a husband to me. Remember also the three poore Mayds, companions of my retirement, as likewise al the rest of my servants, giving them a whole year's wages besides what is due, that so they may be a little recompenced for the good service they have done me; protesting unto you in the conclusion of this my letter and life, that my eyes love you, and desire to see you, more than any thing mortal.

Henry, notwithstanding his violent temper and hardness of heart, read this letter with tears in his eyes and having dispatched a gentleman to visit her, he found death had already delivered her from captivity.

From the time of Edward IV. there gradually arose, in the Castle of Ludlow, a kind of national establishment under the name of, "The Council in the Marches of Wales." Henry VII. adopted the same policy as his father in law had done, and Prince Arthur's residence till his death was for the same purpose as had been that of Edward V. and the Duke of York: to give authority and importance to this institution: and during two centuries this place justified its ancient denomination of "a seat for the administration of justice to the neighbouring people."

The authority of the Lords Marchers, which remained undiminished for ages, and which was absolute within the limits of their respective dis-

open their eyes to the ill husbandry of injustice. They found that the tyranny of a free people could of all tyrannies the least be endured; and that laws made against a whole nation were not the most effectual methods for securing its obedience. Accordingly, in the twenty-seventh year of Henry VIII. the course was entirely altered. With a preamble stating the entire and perfect right of the crown of England it gave the Welsh all the rights and privileges of English subjects. A political order was established; the military power gave way to the civil; the Marches were turned into counties. But that a nation should have a right to English liberties, and yet no share at all in the fundamental security of those liberties, the granting of their own property, seemed a thing so incongruous, that eight years after, that is, in the thirty-fifth of that reign, a complete and not ill proportioned representation by counties and boroughs was bestowed upon Wales, by act of Parliament. From that moment as by a charm, the tumults subsided; obedience was restored; peace, order, and civilization followed in the train of liberty. When the day star of the English constitution had arisen in their hearts all was harmony within and without."—

"Simul alba nautis
Stella refusit,
Defuit saxis agitatus humor:
Concidunt venti, fugiantque nubes,
Et minax (quod sic voluere) ponto
Unda recumbit."

Hor. Lib. 1. Od. 12.

At the period of the union of the Principality with England, a more complete and effective Court of Justice for Wales was established on the ruins of the former Council or Court, and this latter only is recognised as the “Court for the government of Wales.” It was established in the year 1509, and consisted of a Lord President, as many counsellors as the Prince pleased; a secretary, an attorney, a solicitor, and four justices for the Principality of Wales.

Two courts, one for the northern, and the other for the southern Marches, were formerly established in England, similar in form though not perhaps equal in importance. Of these the learned Sir Thomas Smith, Secretary to Queen Elizabeth, gives the following account.

“King Henry the eighth, ordained first a President, counsailours and judges, one for the Marches of Wales, at Ludlow, or elsewhere: another for the north parts of England, at York, where bee many causes determined. These two are as bee Parliaments in France. But if there bee any matters of great consequence, the party may move at the first, or remove it afterwards to Westminster Hall, and to the ordinary judges of the realme, or to the Chanoellour, as the matter is. These two courts doe heare matters before them part after the common law of England, and part after the fashion of the Chancerie.” And Richard Baxter, who lived here about

the year 1630, as servitor to the chaplain of the council, observes on this establishment as follows. "The house," says he, "was great, there being four judges, the king's attorney, the secretary, the clerk of the fines, with all their servants, and all the Lord President's servants, and many more; and the town was full of temptations, through the multitude of persons, counsellors, attorneys, officers and clerks, and much given to tippling and excess." From these remarks we may form a tolerable idea of the great resort of strangers to this place, as well as of the moral habits of the people, when the town flourished in the height of its prosperity, supported by the splendor of its court.

In attempting to arrange a connected narrative of such particulars as are to be found in general and local histories, relative to Ludlow and its vicinity, some important, and it is hoped not uninteresting accounts have been collected. Great and celebrated characters have in a succession of ages, dignified the princely towers of Ludlow with their presence; and from its vicinity has arose the most considerable branch of the royal family of Plantagenet; which family, with occasional intermissions, flourished in regal greatness, though often stained with the blood of its own children, during the space of three hundred and thirty years. History is the great teacher of wisdom to mankind; and its lessons are

deduced alike from the crimes and the virtues of those who are raised to stations of high responsibility. The families of kings are more generally distinguished by the former, and by a succession of misfortunes which strongly excite pity: this is peculiarly the character of the line of Plantagenet. The seventh and eighth Henries, conscious of the just claims of this rival house, pursued the unfortunate relatives of the family till the name became extinct. The last male was Edward Earl of Warwick, a child of most unhappy fortune, nursed in a prison from his cradle, and unjustly put to death by Henry VII. and the last of the name was the sister of this unfortunate nobleman, a lady not more distinguished by her high birth than by her piety and virtue. Not quietly submitting to her unjust and infamous sentence, but struggling with the executioner, she was forcibly dragged to the block by the hands of a ruffian entangled in her hoary locks, made venerable by nearly eighty years; a spectacle of horror which must have raised compassion in all hearts susceptible of noble and generous impressions.

tricts, had been from an early period viewed with a jealous eye by the English Monarchs. Henry III. soon after the suppression of an insurrection headed by John Earl of Chester, and Richard Earl of Pembroke, principal Lords Marchers, resolved upon the conquest of Wales with his own proper forces. The Earl of Chester dying soon after without male issue, the King resumed, by composition made with the Earl's four sisters and heirs, the county palatine of Chester, granted by the Norman Conqueror to the first Earl, his kinsman, and with it the greater part of the county of Flint, which the Earls of Chester, as Lords Marchers, had won from the Welsh.

This earldom and county of Flint, the King conferred on his son Edward, who succeeded him, the first of that name, King of England. He reduced Flint into a county by the statute of Wales, and annexed its possessions and government to the earldom of Chester. From which time this earldom and county have been granted to Princes of Wales, to hold under the crown.

The Lords Marchers retained, however, their possessions exempted from the jurisdiction of the Prince, and continued the exercise of regal power without limitation or control, even after the conquest of Wales; and when King Edward presumed to question by *quo warranto* the tenures and liberties of the Lords Marchers, Earl

Warten, who was one of the principal of them, drawing his sword, answered “by this warrant my ancestors won their lands, and by this I do, and will hold mine ;” which answer all the Barons seconding, the enquiry ceased. Probably the peculiar circumstances of the times, and the great wars and troubles, foreign and domestic, in which the king was engaged, made it prudent to submit to this insolent menace. In succeeding ages, the jurisdiction of these petty princes gaining strength and importance, by degrees degenerated into a system of continual warfare between the Welsh and English, with no other remedy but by reprisal.

Henry VII. born in Wales, and educated there under his uncle Jasper, Duke of Bedford, and Earl of Pembroke, always manifested a favourable disposition towards, and endeavoured to promote the interest of, his native country. With this view he attempted by degrees to bring the Lords Marchers under the crown, and to free the Welsh people from the oppression of the severe laws of Henry IV. By purchase, translation, and otherwise, he obtained several of these lordships ; and by the attainder of Sir William Stanley, there devolved to him the extensive possessions of Bromfield in Yale, and Chirkland in North Wales, being a principal part of the possessions of the Marchers there.

On the death of this king, his son, Henry

VIII. completed his father's undertaking, causing most of the property of the Lords Marchers to come to the crown, and the whole of the Principality of Wales to be incorporated and united to the realm of England. By the law of the union and ordinance of Wales, that country was made to partake of all the liberties and privileges of England, the jurisdiction of the Lords Marchers destroyed, and their baronies reduced into, or united to, counties.

This last remnant of our old feudal tyranny is admirably characterised, and its effects described, by the celebrated Edmund Burke.

"This country (Wales) was said to be reduced by Henry III. it was said more truly to be so by Edward I. But, though then conquered, it was not looked upon as any part of the realm of England. Its old constitution, whatever that might have been, was destroyed; and no good one was substituted in its place. The care of that tract was put into the hands of Lords Marchers,—a form of government of a singular kind; a strange heterogeneous monster, something between hostility and government; perhaps it has a sort of resemblance, according to the modes of those times, to that of commander in chief at present, to whom all civil power is granted as secondary.

The manners of the Welsh nation followed the genius of the government. The people were ferocious, restive, savage, and uncultivated; some-

times composed, never pacified. Wales, within itself, was in perpetual disorder; and it kept the frontier of England in perpetual alarm. Benefit from it to the state, there was none. Wales was only known to England by incursion and invasion.

During this state of things the English Parliament was not idle. They attempted to subdue the fierce spirit of the Welsh by all sorts of rigorous laws. They prohibited by statute the sending of all sorts of arms into Wales. They disarmed them by statute. They made an act to drag offenders from Wales into England for trial. By another act, where one of the parties was an Englishman, they ordained that his trial should be always by English. They made acts to restrain trade, and prevented the Welsh from the use of fairs and markets. In short, when the statute book was not quite so much swelled as it is now, we find no less than fifteen acts of penal regulation on the subject of Wales. Let it not be forgotten that Wales all the while rid this kingdom like an *incubus*; that it was an unprofitable and oppressive burthen; and that an Englishman travelling in that country, could not go six yards from the high road without being murdered.

The march of the human mind is slow. It was not, until after two hundred years, discovered, that by an eternal law, Providence has decreed vexation to violence, and poverty to rapine. Our ancestors did however at length

In 1525, Henry VIII. despairing of male issue, and not yet having conceived the project of divorcing his Queen for conscience sake, conferred on his only child Mary, an infant of nine years old, the title of *Prince of Wales*, with the distinction of nominally directing its commission in the Marches. The style assumed for the Council was, "The King's Commissioners of Council, with my Ladie Prince's Grace, in the Marches of Wales." John Voysey, L.L.D. (who afterwards assumed the name of Harman) presided at this time, and continued in office till the year 1534. This very learned and courtly prelate was highly esteemed by the King who employed him in many embassies, appointed him tutor to the Princess Mary, and gave him the Bishopric of Exeter, and the Presidency of the Marches. Himself learned, he was a great patron of learned men, especially divines, whom he preferred in his own church above all others. He was very bounteous and liberal to all men, and though born to great possessions, independent of his official and episcopal income, yet he died poor. Men are best understood in their unpremeditated actions, and one of the letters of the celebrated Sir Thomas More to his daughters, carries us back in imagination to the age in which this good bishop lived, and exhibits a striking, and undoubtedly true, picture of his character.

"Thomas More sendeth hartie greeting to his dearest daughter Margarett. I will let passe to tell you, my sweetest daughter, how much your letter delighted me; you may imagine how exceedingly it pleased your father, when you understande what affection the reading of it caused in a stranger. It happened me this evening to sit with John Lo. Bishop of Exeter, a learned man; and by all men's judgment, a most sincere man: as we were talking together, and I taking out of my pockett a paper which was to the purpose we were talking about, I pulled out by chance therewith your letter. The hand writing pleasing him, he took it from me and looked on it; when he perceived it by the salutation to be a woman's, he beganne more greedily to read it, noveltie inviting him thereto: but when he had read it, and understood that it was your writing, which he never could have believed, if I had not seriously affirmed it; such a letter, I will say no more; yet why should I not report that which he sayd unto me? so pure a style, so good latine, so eloquent, so full of sweete affections; he was marvellously ravished with it: when I perceived that, I brought forth also an oration of yours, which he reading, and also many of your verses, he was so moved with the matter so unlooked for, that the verie countenance and gesture of the man, free from all flatterie and deceipt, bewrayed that his mind was more than his words could utter. although he uttered manie to your great praise; and forthwith he drew out of his pockett a Portugu, the which you shall receive inclosed herein. I could not possibly shune the taking of it, but he must needs send it unto you, as a signe of his dear affection towards you, although by all means I endeavoured to give it him againe; which was the cause I shewed him none of your other sister's works, for I was afraid lest I should have been thought to have shewed them of purpose, because he should bestowe the like courtesie upon them: for it troubled me sore that I must needs take this of him: but he is so worthie a man, as I have said, that it is a happinesse to please him thus; write carefully unto him and eloquently as you are able, to give him thanks therefore. Farewell from the court this 11th. of September, 1527, even almost at midnight."

Sir Rowland Lee, Bishop of Lichfield, appointed in 1534, was the first Lord President of what was properly denominated the "Court for the Goverment of Wales," and it was in his time that the complete division of Wales into counties, and the union of the two countries was effected. In the attainment of this important object the worthy bishop was the most active agent chosen by King Henry VIII. Henry was undoubtedly a very vicious character; yet as bad qualities are often united to great talents,

we generally find him to have exercised much skill in the selection of his ministers and officers of state, and the appointment of this prelate to the Presidency is an evident example. During his very active administration the intolerable abuses in the Marches had been fully disclosed, and those districts were completely cleared of the bands of robbers with which they had been infested. Sir Rowland was probably keeping his court at Shrewsbury when he was seized with his last illness, and died at the house of his brother the Dean of St. Chad's, in the college, on the 4th. of January, 1542, on the 27th. of which month he was buried in the church of St. Chad, under a marble tomb before the high altar. It is remarked of him, in the Shrewsbury MS. Chronicle, that he "brought Wales, beinge att hys fyरste connyng very wylde, in good syvilitie before he dyed ; who sayd "he wold macke the whyte sheepe keepe the blacke."

In 1543, Richard Sampson, Bishop of Lichfield, was President. Removed 1548.

John Dudley, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland, presided in 1548. This notorious Duke was also Earl Marshal and Lord High Admiral, he was the son of Edmund Dudley, the detested associate of Empson; both agents, if not instigators of those tyrannical and oppressive acts, the recollection of which lay heavy on the conscience of the seventh Henry on his death

bed. The evil propensities of Dudley descended to his offspring through several generations; among whom this "bold bad man" was not the least celebrated. He possessed ability, was courageous and enterprising; but fraudulent, unjust, and of unrelenting ambition. He had the address to prevail with Edward VI. to violate the order of succession, and settle the crown on his daughter-in-law, the Lady Jane Grey. Several historians speak of him as the greatest subject that ever was in England. He was executed for rebellion, in the first year of Queen Mary. It has been observed, that he had eight sons, of whom none had any lawful issue.

In 1549, Sir William Herbert, K. G. afterwards Earl of Pembroke, was President. This Peer was the base born son of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. Made esquire of the body to King Henry VIII. he found means of ingratiating himself with that monarch, obtaining several offices in Wales, and enormous grants of abbey lands in some of the southern counties. In 1554, the thirty-seventh year of his age, he had the King's license to retain thirty persons in his service, under his livery, badges, &c. the King's marriage with Catherine Parr, his wife's sister, increased his consequence; and Henry on his death bed appointed him one of his executors, and a member of the young King's council. His activity in suppressing commotions in Wales, and

BRIEF
Biographical Sketches
OF THE
PRESIDENTS OF WALES.



ANTHONY Widvile, or Widewylle, Earl of Ryvers, was "President of the Prince of Wales' Council" in the year 1473. He was brother to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. and the most accomplished nobleman in the court of that monarch. To him was intrusted the education of his nephews, the two young Princes. He married the daughter and heiress of Thomas Lord Scales, (who was Seneschal of Normandy, and a valiant and active soldier in the French wars) on whose death in 1460 he was in his wife's right summoned to Parliament as Lord Scales. That he was complete master of those high feats of chivalry so much in repute in those days, we may learn from the old chronicles.

"—And in the moneth of Juny followyng, were certayne actes and featys of warre doone in Smythfelde, atwene sir Antony

Wydeuyll, called Lord Scalys, vpon that one partie, and the Bastarde of Burgoyne, chalengour on that one partie: of which the Lorde Scalys wanne the honour: for the sayde Bastarde was at the firste course rennyng, with sharpe sperys overthrown horse and man, whiche was by the rage of the horse of the sayde Bastarde, and not by vyolence of the stroke of his enemy, and by a pyke of iron standyng vpon the fore parte of the sadyll of the Lorde Scalys, wherewith the horse beyng blynde of the Bastarde, was strykon into the nose thrylles, and payne therof mounted so hyghe vpon the hinder feet, that he fyl bakward. Vpon the seconde day they met theré agayne vpon fote, and fawght with theyre axes a fewe strokes. But whan the Kyng sawe that the Lorde Scalys hadde auantage of the Bastarde, as the poynte of his axe in the vysoure of his enemyes helmet, and by force therof was lykely to have born hym over, the Kyng in hast cryed to suche as hadde the rule of the felde, that they shulde departe theym: and for more sped of the same, caste downe a warleror which he then helde in his hande: and so were they departed to the honour of the Lorde Scalys for both dayes." *Fab. Chron. A. D. M,IV,LXVII.*

He was a most valiant soldier, and constantly employed either in suppressing the tumults of those turbulent times, or in discharging the duties

of some of the principal offices of state. Yet he found leisure to cultivate letters, and to be the author of works, which, though of little value now, made some noise at the time. These consisted chiefly of translations from the French. He was the great patron and restorer of learning, and his lordship, with his printer Caxton, were the first English authors who had the pleasure to see their works printed. There is a curious old engraving, belonging to a manuscript in the Archbishop's library at Lambeth, representing this nobleman, attended by Caxton, presenting his book "The Dictes and Sayinges of Philosophers" to Edward IV. If the "Game of Chess" was the first book printed by Caxton, this by Lord Scales was the third, see Ames' History of Printing, vol. 1. p. 30. His other works are "The Cordial, or a Booke de IV. Novissimis, that is to wit, Deth, Jugement, Helle, Heven. Imprinted by Caxton at Westmynstre, 1478." This work is called the Cordial, as the author informs us, "that it may be cordially emprented in us." An epilogue is written to it by Caxton. "The Morale Proverbes of Cristyne (of Pyse). Lond. Printed by Caxton, 1478." The original author of the work from which this is translated, was an ingenious Lady, who removed with her father into France about the year 1400, where these Proverbs were first written in the language of that country.

He was born in the year 1442, treacherously imprisoned by Richard III. in Pontefract Castle, and by that tyrant's order, beheaded on the 23rd. of June, 1483, in the forty-first year of his age. He wrote a poem during his imprisonment, which is preserved.

In 1478, John Alcock, L.L.D. and Bishop of Ely, was President of the Council. He was born at Beverley in Yorkshire, and educated at Cambridge. Was first made Dean of Westminister, and in 1471 consecrated Bishop of Rochester; in 1476 was translated to the See of Worcester, and in 1477 to that of Ely. He was a man of great learning and piety, and so highly esteemed by King Henry VII. that he appointed him Lord President of the Council of Wales, and afterwards Lord Chancellor of England. Alcock founded a school at Kingston upon Hull, and built the spacious hall belonging to the episcopal palace of Ely. He was also the founder of Jesus College, Cambridge. He died in 1500.

William Smyth, Bishop of Lincoln, was made Justice of the Peace for the counties of Salop, Hereford, Gloucester, and the Marches, on the 20th. of March, 1492; he was President of the Council during the residence of Prince Arthur in the Castle, and afterwards till his death.

Geoffry Blythe was Lord President in 1513, succeeding Bishop Smyth; he presided thirteen years.

in some of the western counties of England, procured him the office of master of the horse ; the order of the Garter, a valuable wardship, and the Presidency of the Council for Wales, were bestowed on him as a reward for important services against the Cornish rebels, which he performed at the head of one thousand Welshmen. He next became conspicuous as a commander of forces in Picardy, and Governor of Calais : and claimed as his reward, the titles of Baron Herbert and Earl of Pembroke, extinct by failure of legitimate heirs.

The aspiring Northumberland deemed it an object of importance to secure the support of a nobleman who now appeared at the head of three hundred retainers ; and whose authority in Wales and the southern counties of England, formed an aggregate of power not exceeded by the hereditary influence of the most powerful and ancient houses. To engage him in his interest, he procured a marriage between Lord Herbert, Pembroke's eldest son, and the Lady Catherine Grey ; which was solemnized at the same time with that of Lord Guilford Dudley and Lady Jane, Catherine's eldest sister. The selfish ambition of Pembroke was not to be arrested in its progress by any ties of friendship or alliance : when his sagacity discovered the falling fortunes of his associates, he was therefore quickly in-

duced to sacrifice others to effect his own escape ; for though he concurred in the measures of the privy council in behalf of Lady Jane's title to the crown, it was by artifices of his own devising that the proclamation of Mary took place with the sanction of that body. By this act he secured the favour of the new Queen, whom he further propitiated by compelling his son to divorce the innocent and ill fated Lady Catherine. Mary confided to him the charge of suppressing Wyat's rebellion, and afterwards made him captain general beyond the seas ; in which capacity he commanded the English forces at the battle of St. Quintins. Elizabeth chose him of her privy council on her accession, and afterwards, in conjunction with Northampton, Bedford, and Lord John Grey, appointed him to assist at the meetings of divines and men of learning, for the final settling of the religious establishment of the country. He was likewise made commissioner for administering the oath of supremacy. His death happened in the year 1570, in the sixty-third year of his age.

Naunton, in his "Fragmenta Regalia," speaking of Paulet, Marquis of Winchester and Lord Treasurer : who he says had then served four princes, "in as various and changeable seasons, that well I may say, neither time nor age hath yielded the like precedent," thus proceeds "this man being noted to grow high in her (Queen

Elizabeth's) favour, was questioned by an intimate friend how he stood up for thirty years together amidst the changes and reigns of so many chancellors and great personages. "Why," quoth the marquis, "*Ortus sum ex salice, non ex quercu.*" (By being a willow and not an oak). And truly the old man had taught them all, especially William Earl of Pembroke; for they two were ever of the King's religion, and ever zealous professors."

Among the means employed by Pembroke for preserving the Queen's favour, was that of paying his court to her minister Robert Dudley; and Lord Herbert, whose first marriage had been contracted in compliance with the views of the father, now formed a third in obedience to the wishes of the son. The lady to whom he was now united was the niece of Dudley, and sister to Sir Philip Sidney; one of the most accomplished women of her age; celebrated during her life by the wits and poets whom she patronized, and preserved in the memory of posterity by the following epitaph from the pen of Ben Jonson.—

"Underneath this sable herse"
Lies the subject of all verse,
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother;
Death, ere thou hast slain another
Learn'd and fair and good as she,
Time shall throw his dart at thee."

"The Herse was a frame of wood like a coffin, covered with black cloth, kept over the graves of persons of distinction, sometimes for a year after interment, generally surmounted with a canopy, and in modern times called a *Catafalque*.

Nicholas Heath, Bishop of Worcester, occupied the Presidency in 1553, which being again given to the Earl of Pembroke during a short period, devolved in 1555 to Gilbert Bourne, Bishop of Bath and Wells. Heath and Bourne, were two of the five catholics chosen by Queen Mary to succeed that number of reformed bishops who were deposed on her accession.

The next person mentioned as President, is John Lord Williams of Tame. He was of the same family as the Protector Cromwell, whose great grandfather was Sir Richard Williams, knight, who assumed the surname of Cromwell, in the reign of Henry VIII. This Gentleman rose, like most of the great men in Henry's Court, from a very inconsiderable beginning: for he was only a menial servant of that Prince, and was afterwards clerk of the jewel house, and gaining interest at court, he procured a patent for the office of master treasurer thereof; (but Thomas Lord Cromwell, then a rising favourite, obliged him to part with half of it to himself) he was knighted by Henry and held many lucrative offices, particularly that of treasurer of the augmentations. He purchased Ricot in Oxfordshire: he was a partisan of Queen Mary, and by her created, by writ of summons to Parliament, Lord Williams of Tame (but it was not enrolled); she also made him Lord Chamberlain of the household to King Philip, that Queen's consort, he

was made President by Elizabeth and died in the first year of her reign.

In the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Henry Sidney, K. G. was appointed. "Sir Henry Sidney," says Miss Aikin, in her interesting Memoirs of the Court of Elizabeth, "was one of the most upright, as well as able of the ministers of Elizabeth: that he was the father of Sir Philip Sidney was the least of his praises: and it may be cited as one of the caprices of fame, that he should be remembered by his son, rather than his son by him. Those qualities which in Sir Philip could afford little but the promise of active virtues, were brought in Sir Henry to the test of actual performance; and lasting monuments of his wisdom and his goodness, remain in the institutions by which he softened the barbarism of Wales, and appeased the more dangerous turbulence of Ireland by promoting its civilization."

Sir Henry was the son of Sir William Sidney, a gentleman of good parentage in Kent, whose mother was of the family of Brandon and nearly related to the Duke of Suffolk of that name, the favourite and brother-in-law of Henry VIII. Sir William in his youth had made one of a band of gentlemen of figure, who, with their Sovereign's approbation, travelled into Spain and other countries of Europe, to study the manners and customs of their respective courts. He likewise

distinguished himself at the field of Flodden. The King stood godfather to his son Henry, born in 1529, and caused him to be educated with the Prince of Wales, to whom Sir William was appointed tutor, chamberlain, and steward. The excellent qualities and agreeable talents of young Sidney, soon endeared him to Edward, who made him his inseparable companion and often his bedfellow ; he kept him in close attendance on his person during his long decline, and sealed his friendship by breathing his last in his arms.

During the short reign of this lamented Prince, Sidney had received the honour of knighthood ; and had been intrusted, at the early age of one and twenty, with an embassy to the French King ; in which he acquitted himself so ably that he was soon afterwards sent in a diplomatic character to Scotland. He had likewise formed connections which had important influence on his after fortunes. Sir John Cheke held him in particular esteem, and through his means he had contracted a cordial friendship with Cecil, of which in various ways he found the benefit to the end of his life. A daughter of the all-powerful Duke of Northumberland honoured him with her hand ; a dangerous gift, which was likely to have involved him in the ruin which the guilty projects of that audacious man drew down upon the heads of himself and his family.

But the prudence or loyalty of Sidney preser-

ved him from the snare. No sooner had his royal master breathed his last, than relinquishing all concern in public affairs, he withdrew to the safe retirement of his own seat at Penshurst, where he afterwards afforded an asylum to such of the Dudleys, as had escaped death or imprisonment.

Queen Mary seems to have held out an earnest of future favour to Sidney, by naming him among the noblemen and knights appointed to attend Philip of Spain to England for the completion of his nuptials; and this Prince farther honoured him by becoming sponsor to his afterwards celebrated son, and giving him his own name. But Sidney soon quitted a court in which a man of protestant principles could no longer reside with satisfaction, if with safety, and accompanied to Ireland his brother-in-law Viscount Fitzwalter, then Lord Deputy. In that kingdom he first bore the office of Vice Treasurer, and afterwards, during the frequent absences of the Lord Deputy, the high one of sole Lord Justice.

The accession of Elizabeth enabled Lord Robert Dudley to make a large return for the former kindnesses of his brother-in-law; and supported by the influence of this distinguished favourite, in addition to his personal claims, Sir Henry rose in a few years to the dignities of Privy counsellor and Knight of the Garter. After his embassy to France he was appointed

to the post of Lord President of Wales, to which, in 1565, the still more important one of Lord Deputy of Ireland was added ;—an union of two not very compatible offices, unexampled in our annals before or since. It is evident from Elizabeth's steadiness in persisting to appoint and reappoint him to this most perplexing department of public service, in spite of all the cabals of English or Irish growth, that though his favour with her might be sometimes shaken, her rooted opinion of his probity and sufficiency could never be overthrown.

From a perusal of the Sidney papers, it is abundantly evident that neither the superiority of his understanding nor the purity of his motives could secure Sir Henry from the attacks of malice, and the train of evils which too commonly pursue and overwhelm great and good men in high stations ; but in his domestic concerns he was more fortunate, and could not fail to be highly gratified in the singular happiness of being the father of a son so deservedly the idol of his own, and the admiration of succeeding ages.

“Sir Philip Sidney was educated by the cares of a wise and excellent father, in the purest and most excellent moral principles, and in the best learning of the age. A letter of advice which this affectionate parent addressed to him at the age of twelve, fully exemplifies both the lauda-

ble solicitude of Sir Henry respecting his future character, and the soundness of his views and maxims : in the character of his son on his advancing to manhood, he saw his hopes exceeded and his prayers fulfilled. Nothing could be more correct than his conduct, more laudable than his pursuits, when on his travels; young as he was, he merited the friendship of Hubert Languet. He also gained just and high reputation for the manner in which he conducted himself in an embassy to the protestant Princes of Germany. He was among the English travellers doomed to be eyewitnesses of the dreadful massacre of St. Bartholomew, being then only eighteen years of age. On that night of horrors he took shelter in the house of Walsingham, and thus escaped all personal danger; but his after conduct fully proved how indelible was the impression left upon his mind of the monstrous wickedness of the French royal family, and of the disgrace and misery which an alliance with it must entail on his Queen and country.

His indiscriminate thirst for glory was in some measure the foible of his character, and hence, in correspondence with one of his favourite maxims,

"Aut viam inveniam aut faciam,"

he meditated to join one of the almost piratical expeditions of Drake against the Spanish settlements. It is probable he was diverted from this design by the strong and kind warning of his

true friend Languet, “to beware lest the thirst of lucre should creep into a mind which had hitherto admitted nothing but the love of truth, and an anxiety to deserve well of all men.” If, as has been alleged, he was led by his wish to conciliate the Queen’s favour to some acts of adulation unworthy of his spirit, for these he made large amends by his noble letter against the French marriage. He afterwards undertook, with a zeal and ability highly honourable to his heart and his head, the defence of his father, accused but finally acquitted. This business involved him in disputes with the Earl of Ormond, his father’s enemy; who seems to have generously overlooked provocations which might have led to more serious consequences, in consideration of the filial feelings of his youthful adversary.”

In the contest which Elizabeth pursued, in conjunction with the Dutch, in support of the protestant cause against the Duke of Parma, Sir Philip Sidney distinguished himself by a well conducted surprize of the town of Axel, and received in reward, the honour of knighthood from the hands of his uncle. Afterwards, having made an attack with the horse under his command on a reinforcement which the enemy was attempting to throw into Zutphen, a hot action ensued; in which, though the advantage remained with the English, it was dearly purchased by the blood of their gallant leader, who received a

shot above the knee, which, after sixteen days of acute suffering, brought his valuable life to its termination.

Thus perished at the early age of thirty-two, the pride and pattern of his time, the theme of song, and the favourite of English story. The beautiful anecdote of his resigning to the dying soldier the draught of water with which he was about to quench his thirst as he was carried faint and bleeding from the fatal field, is told to every child ; and inspires a love and reverence for his name, which never ceases to cling about the hearts of his countrymen. He is regarded as the most perfect example which English history affords of the *preux Chevalier*; and is named in parallel with the spotless and fearless Bayard, the glory of Frenchmen, whom he excelled in all the accomplishments of peace, as much as the other exceeded him in the number and splendor of his military achievements.

His death was worthy of the best parts of his life ; he shewed himself to the last devout, courageous, and serene. On the whole though justice claims the admission that the character of Sidney was not entirely free from the faults most incident to his age and station, and that neither as a writer, a scholar, a soldier, or a statesman, (in all which characters, during the course of his short life, he appeared, and appeared with distinction) is he entitled to the highest

rank ; it may yet be firmly maintained that, as a man, an accomplished and high souled man, he had among his contemporary countrymen neither equal nor competitor. Such was the verdict in his own times, not of flatterers only, or of friends, but of England, and Europe ; such is the title of merit under which the historian may enrol him with confidence and complacency, among the illustrious few whose names and examples still serve to kindle in the bosoms of youth the animating glow of virtuous emulation.

Sir Henry Sidney was spared the anguish of following such a son to the grave ; having himself quitted the scene a few months before.

Domestic occurrences had taught Sir Henry that his near connection with the Earl of Leicester had its dangers as well as advantages ; and observing the turn for show and expense with which it served to inspire the younger members of his family, he would frequently enjoin them "to consider more whose sons than whose nephews they were." In fact he was not able to lay up fortunes for them ; the offices he held were higher in dignity than emolument, his spirit was noble and munificent ; and the following among other anecdotes may serve to show that he himself was not averse to a certain degree of parade ; at least on particular occasions. The Queen standing once at the window of her palace at Hampton Court, saw a gentleman approach es-

corted by two hundred attendants on horseback ; and turning to her courtiers, she asked with some surprise, who this might be ? But on being informed that it was Sir Henry Sidney, her Lord Deputy of Ireland and President of Wales, she answered, "and he may well do it, for he has two of the best offices in my kingdom."

But if his attachment to the vain distinction of pomp and show may be accounted a weakness, yet in his private history abundant evidence remains of the soundness of his judgment, the goodness of his heart, and the integrity of his character. No truly wise, pious, or good man ever persecuted, or sanctioned the practice in others ; and we find it recorded to his honour, that in opposing the persecuting rage of the time in which he lived, Sir Henry subjected himself to the imminent danger of becoming the victim of courtly or priestly intrigue, and of losing that portion of the royal favour which he had so long deservedly enjoyed.

Dr. Whitgift, Bishop of Worcester, and Vice President of the Marches of Wales under Sir Henry Sidney, peculiarly distinguished himself by his activity in detecting secret religious meetings of catholics, and for his zeal was rewarded by the privy council ; who directed to him and to some of the Welsh bishops, a special commission for the trial of those delinquents. They further instructed him, in the case of one Morice who had

declined answering directly to certain interrogatories tending to criminate himself, that if he remained obstinate, and the commissioners saw cause, they might, at their discretion, subject him to some kind of torture. The same means he was also desired to take with others, in order to discover the practices of papists in these parts. See Strype's Life of Whitgift, p. 83.

Among the Sidney papers, volume 1, p. 276. is a letter of considerable length on the subject of this commission, directed to Sir Henry, and written by Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary of State; in which, after stating that the said commission had lain dormant for more than a year, a fear is expressed that "a very hard construction would be made of his keeping it so long and doing no good therein, notwithstanding his having made journies in Wales to do somewhat in the cause of religion." It is further stated in the letter, that blame is attributed to him for acting without the concurrence of those more zealously inclined persons mentioned in the said commission: and attached to the letter is a postscript to the following effect. "Your Lordship had need to walk warily, for your doings are narrowly observed, and her Majesty is apt to give ear to any that shall speak ill of you. Great hold is taken by your enemies for neglecting the execution of this commission." *Dated Oatlands, August 9, 1580.*

If we justly appreciate the character of Sir

Henry, we shall not be surprised at his aversion to join with persons influenced by a spirit of persecution, which led men to hate and destroy each other for difference of opinions, religious or political. Indeed this horrid vice arose from the ignorance and wickedness of the age, and among the dignified and powerful at that period, none were free from the contagion except a few eminently exalted characters, distinguished by superior wisdom and benevolence. Successive ages of civilization have now brought us to a more enlightened æra, in which reason and justice are predominant.

Sir Henry's conduct in his official capacity was exemplary; we shall also find, by consulting authentic papers which have been published relative to himself and family, that wisdom and true christian piety influenced and guided his life in all its relations, civil and social. There is, among the papers above mentioned, a letter which has been already referred to as containing important instructions for the conduct of life. The preceptive part of this letter is estimable in itself, and as a specimen of Sir Henry's style of thinking and writing in his private studies, may with propriety be here introduced.—

"Let your first action be the lifting up of your mind to almighty God, by hearty prayer, with continual meditation, and thinking of him to whom you pray, and of the matter for which you pray. And use this as an ordinary act, and at an ordinary hour. Whereby the time itself will put you in remembrance to do that which you are accustomed to do. In your study apply yourself such hours as your discreet master doth assign you, earnestly; and the time

(I know) he will so limit, as shall be both sufficient for your learning, and safe for your health. And mark the sense of that you read, as well as the words. So shall you both enrich your tongue with words, and your wit with matter; and judgment will grow as years grow in you. Be humble and obedient to your master, for unless you frame yourself to obey others, yea, and feel in yourself what obedience is, you shall never be able to teach others to obey you. Be courteous of gesture and affable to all men, with diversity of reverence, according to the dignity of the person. There is nothing that winneth so much with so little cost. Use moderate diet, so as after your meat you may find your wit fresher, and not duller, and your body more lively, and not more heavy. Seldom drink wine, and yet sometimes do, lest being enforced to drink upon the sudden, you should find yourself inflamed. Use exercise of body, but such as is without peril of your joints or bones, it will increase your force and enlarge your breath. Delight to be cleanly, as well in all parts of your body as in your garments. It shall make you grateful in each company, and otherwise loathsome. Give yourself to be merry, for you degenerate from your father if you find not yourself most able in wit and body to do anything when you be most merry: but let your mirth be ever void of all scurrility and biting words to any man, for a wound given by a word is oftentimes harder to be cured than that which is given with the sword. Be you rather a hearer and bearer away of other men's talk, than a beginner or procurer of speech, otherwise you shall be counted to delight to hear yourself speak. If you hear a wise sentence or an apt phrase, commit it to your memory with respect to the circumstance when you shall speak it. Let never oath be heard to come out of your mouth, nor word of ribaldry; detest it in others, so shall custom make to you a law against it in yourself. Be modest in each assembly, and rather be rebuked of light fellows for maidenlike shamefacedness, than of your sad friends for pert boldness. Think upon every word that you will speak before you utter it. Above all things tell no untruth, no not in trifles. The custom of it is naughty, and let it not satisfy you, that for a time the hearers take it for a truth, for after it will be known as it is to your shame: for there cannot be a greater reproach to a gentleman than to be accounted a liar. Study and endeavour yourself to be virtuously occupied. So shall you make such an habit of well doing in you, that you shall not know how to do evil, though you would. Remember, my son, the noble blood you are descended of by your mother's side; and think that only by virtuous life and good actions you may be an ornament to that illustrious family; and otherwise, through vice and sloth, you shall be accounted "*latus generis*," one of the greatest curses that can happen to man."

In the History of Shrewsbury an account is given of Sir Henry's visit to that place for the purpose of keeping the feast of St. George, on the 23rd. of April, 1581. The procession marched from the Council House to St. Chad's church,

the stalls of which were, on this occasion, decorated with the arms of the knights, in imitation of the chapel at Windsor; with a highly decorated unoccupied stall set apart for the Queen: in passing this Sir Henry made the same lowly obeisance, as if her Majesty had been actually present. The service was "sung by note" and in the evening the feast began and the Lord President kept open house. The week following, the four Masters of the Free School entertained his Lordship with a costly banquet: supplementary to which, on the following day, the scholars, to the number of three hundred and sixty, mustered in a place called the Gay, with their masters, when the head boy, or general, with the captains, addressed the President. The entertainment concluded by another pageant of the boys in masquerade, stationed on the small island about a mile down the river. The purport of the speeches or songs was to lament the departure of their favourite Sir Henry, who commenced his journey in a barge; "there were placed by the water side certain appointed scholars of the Free School, being apparelled all in green, with green willows on their heads, marching by and calling to him, making their lamentable orations."

One boy alone thus addressed him,—

'Oh staye the barge, rowe not so faste,
Rowe not so faste, oh staye a while,
Oh staye to heare the playntes at least
Of nymphs that harbour in this isle.

Their woe is great, great moan they make,
With doleful tones they doe lament,
They howle, they cri, their leave to take,
Their garments greene for woe they rent.

Oh, Seaverne turne thy streames quite backe,
Alas! why dest thou us abyde;
Wilt thou cause us this Lord to lacke,
Whose presence is our only joy.

But harke! methinks I heare a sounde,
A woeful sounde I plainly heare,
Some sorrow great their hearts doth weande,
Pass on my Lord to them drawe neare."

Four boys appear in green, singing,--

"O woeful wretched tyme, oh doleful day and hour,
Lament we may the loss we have, and floods of tears out poure,
Come nymphs of woods and hilles, come help us mean we pray,
The water nymphs our sisters dear, do take our Lord away.

Bewayle we may our wronge, revenge we cannot take,
Oh that the gods would bring him back, our sorrows for to slake."

One boy alone, with music,--

"O thrice unhappy wight,
O sillie soule what hap have I, to see this woeful sight;
Shall I now leave my loynges Lord, shall he now from me gon,
Why will he Salop nowe forsake, alas why will he see.

Alas my sorrows doe increase, my heart doth rent in twayne,
For that my Lord doth hence depart, and will not here remain."

"And because," says the chronicler, "the whole of the orations are somewhat tedious to put them here downe, I thought best to place here the fynyshynge of the later staffe of the last nymphe that spacke; whiche sange the hole with music playeynge. --

"And wyll your honor needs depart,
And must it needs be soe?
Wold God we could lycke fyshes awyme,
That we might with the goe!

Or ells wold God this lytill ile
Were stretched owt so lardge,

That we onue foote might follow the,
And wayte upon thy barge.

But seinge we cannot styme,
And th' ielande's at an ende,
Saife passage with a short retурne,
The myghtie God the sende."

He died in the Bishop's Palace in Worcester, A. D. 1586, and was conveyed from thence to his house at Penshurst in Kent, where he was most honourably interred. He was, however, previously embowelled ; his entrails were buried in the Dean's Chapel in the Cathedral Church at Worcester ; and his heart was brought to Ludlow, and deposited in the same tomb with his dearly beloved daughter Ambrosia, within the little oratory which he had made in the Church of St. Lawrence. The leaden urn which contained his heart was lately in the possession of Mr. S. Nicholas of Leominster, who communicated to the Gentleman's Magazine an exact description and drawing of it, copied in that work in September, 1794. It is about six inches deep and five in diameter at the top, with the following inscription, dated the year of his demise :

HER LITH THE HARTE OF
SYR HENBY SIDNEY, L. P.
Anne Domini 1586.

In the same year he was succeeded by his son-in-law Henry Earl of Pembroke, who continued till his death, May 5, 1601. To whom succeeded Edward Lord Zouch of Codnore, who died 1605.

From 1610 to 1612 the Presidency was given to Ralph the third Lord Eure ; whose Lady was Mary daughter of Sir John Dawnay of Sessay in the County of York : his remains are in Ludlow Church.

Thomas Lord Gerald of Bromley, was appointed in 1616, and during his year of Presidency the Castle was honoured with a visit from Prince Charles, (afterwards Charles I.) who celebrated with great pomp and magnificence his accession to the Principality of Wales and Earldom of Chester. In the year following, on the 12th of November, William Earl of Northampton, was invested with the office ; he continued till his death, June 24, 1630, and was succeeded by Sir John Egerton, created afterwards Earl of Bridgewater ; he was appointed President June 26, 1631, by King Charles I. who about this time again visited Ludlow, and was welcomed with much ceremony and rejoicing. An old manuscript states, "that he entered the Castle amidst the discharge of the great guns and firelocks of the soldiers, attended by all the officers magnificently dressed and mounted ; and so great was the pomp, that the like thereof was never before seen in these parts."

The Mask of Comus was acted in the Castle of Ludlow during the Presidency of the Earl of Bridgewater. That exquisite effusion of the youthful genius of Milton had its origin in a real incident. When the Earl entered on his official

residence, he was visited by a large assemblage of the neighbouring nobility and gentry. His sons the Lord Brackley and Mr. Thomas Egerton, and his daughter the Lady Alice, being on their journey,—

“to attend their father's state,
And new entrusted sceptre,”

were benighted in Haywood forest, in Herefordshire, and the lady for a short time lost. The adventure being related to their father on their arrival at the Castle, Milton, at the request of his friend Henry Lawes, who taught music in the family, wrote the Mask, Lawes composed the music, and it was acted on Michaelmas night; the two brothers, the young lady, and Lawes himself bearing each a part in the representation.

This poem, familiar to every English reader, has been allowed, by the most competent judges, to be one of the finest compositions of the kind in the English language, and will ever be held in peculiar estimation, as exhibiting the fair dawn of that genius which burst forth in full splendor in the divine poem of *Paradise Lost*.

“We must not,” says Warton, “read *Comus* with an eye to the stage or with the expectation of dramatic propriety. *Comus* is a suit of speeches, not interesting by discrimination of character, not conveying a variety of incidents, nor gradually exciting curiosity, but perpetually attracting attention by sublime sentiments, by fanciful imagery of the richest vein, by an exu-

berance of picturesque description, poetical allusion, and ornamental expression.

There is a chastity in the application and conduct of the machinery; and Sabrina is introduced with much address after the two brothers had imprudently suffered the enchantment to take effect. This is the first instance in which the old English Mask has in some degree been reduced to the principles of a rational composition; yet still it could not but retain some of its arbitrary peculiarities."

To this eulogy may be added the praise of having displayed the loveliness of virtue, and exposed the deformity of vice, by a lively and consistent allegory, and by a succession of just and moral sentiments enforced with all the enchantment of poetic eloquence. So well is the tone of Milton's numbers sustained throughout the piece, that, to give a specimen of its excellence any passage might be promiscuously taken.

In the conduct of the fable, in the structure of the blank verse, and in certain peculiarities of diction, Shakespeare is closely copied. The following passage is a curious instance of the success with which he has been studied.

"He that has light within his own clear breast,
May sit i'th' centre and enjoy bright day:
But he that hides a dark soul and foul thoughts,
Enlighted walks under the mid-day sun;
Himself is his own dungeon."

The conclusion of the Mask strongly evinces that the author never intended it for general re-

presentation, and that he had no other view than the particular purpose for which, at the request of his friend, he undertook it. The scene changes from the magic palace of Comus to a view of the Town and Castle of Ludlow ; and one of the songs is addressed to the Earl and his Countess, congratulating them on the constancy of their children in the trials to which their virtue had been exposed.

It is singular to remark that this composition met with a reception much more favourable than the later and more mature works of Milton. It was represented by noble actors, on a stage and before auditors equally noble. But whatever honours accrued to the poet on this account, were in the lapse of a few ages to reflect on his patrons from the splendor of his name.

The pomp and pageantry, the princely magnificence that attended the Court of the Marches were soon to disappear, and the stillness of desolation was to succeed to the bustle of festivity and merriment. This proud Castle, which once held dominion over a whole Principality, was to be abandoned to decay, to be spoiled of every memorial of its illustrious inhabitants, and to be left an awful monument of the mutability of human affairs. Yet even in this state it might still excite interest; though ruined it might be venerable, though solitary it could never be wholly deserted ; and the traveller, who turned

aside to view its ruins, would pause ere he passed on, to do homage to the memory of the divine poet who had hallowed them with his immortal strains:—

“Here Milton sung, what needs a greater spell
To lure thee, stranger, to these far fam'd walls?
Though chroniclers of other ages tell
That priuces oft have grac'd fair Ludlow's halls,
Their honours glide along oblivion's stream,
And o'er the wreck a tide of ruin drives;
Faint and more faint the rays of glory beam
That gild their course—the bard alone survives.
And when the rude unceasing shocks of time
In one vast heap shall whelm this lofty pile,
Still shall his genius, towering and sublime,
Triumphant o'er the spoils of grandeur smile;
Still in these haunts, true to a nation's tongue,
Echo shall love to dwell, and say, here Milton sung.”

During the struggle between Charles I. and the Parliament, Ludlow and Shrewsbury were occupied by the royal party headed by the Princes Rupert and Maurice, who had possession of this part of the country and the greater part of Wales. In 1645 Shrewsbury was taken in the night by surprize, by Colonel Mytton. The garrison surrendered by capitulation, and were allowed to march with their arms to Ludlow: at the same time thirteen Irish soldiers were left to the mercy of the enemy, who immediately hanged the whole of them. This was said to be their general custom. On this occasion Prince Rupert retaliated, as appears from a journal published at the time. “The House of Commons being informed that Prince Rupert had hanged 13 honest Protestants, that lived about Shropshire, because there were 13 Irish rebels hanged in Shrewsbury, after

some debate thereon, ordered that Prince Rupert should be informed that there is a great difference between Irish rebels and English protestants, and if he does the like again we must retaliate." Again in another paper of the day: "it is indeed a lamentable consideration that such faithful upright men should be taken away in lieu of the cursed Irish rebels come over to fight against the Parliament." The Irish massacre of ten thousand protestants, which took place in 1641, may account for, and in some degree excuse, the cruel spirit manifested on this occasion; and it will scarcely be disputed, that the mutual hatred between the ignorant populace of the two countries has been in a considerable degree continued even to the present time: a spirit which nothing can destroy but the better influence of a reciprocal interchange of acts of justice and christian charity.

In March, 1645, Prince Rupert at Ludlow, and Sir James Astley at Bewdley, were actively attempting to raise additional forces; part of their army also occupied Cleobury, Tenbury, and Burford. They were supposed to be meditating an attack upon Shrewsbury. In the mean time the opposite party observant of their movements, drew out a body of troops from Worcester, Lichfield, and Shrewsbury; an engagement took place at Stokesay, near Ludlow, and the Royalists were defeated with great loss. In this engage-

ment Sir William Croft, of Croft Castle, was slain. It was not till the year following, June 9th, 1646, that the Castle of Ludlow fell into the hands of General Sir William Brereton, to whom it was given up by Sir Michael Woodhouse.

The Earl of Bridgewater died in 1648, and was succeeded by Richard Lord Vaughan, Earl of Carberry: during the greater part of his time the Castle was strongly garrisoned for the Parliament. Here amidst the noise and bustle of civil dissents, we find this worthy nobleman encouraging genius, and affording a comfortable asylum to Butler, the satirical author of *Hudibras*.

In 1667 Henry Somerset, Marquis and Earl of Worcester, was Lord President; he was son of the celebrated Edward, Marquis of Worcester, the most extraordinary projector upon record. Henry was, in his father's life time, created Earl of Glamorgan by Charles I. and by Charles II. appointed President of the Council for the Principality of Wales, elected Knight of the Garter, and created Duke of Beaufort.

Prince Rupert presided in 1679, and is supposed to have continued till his death, which happened November 29, 1692. This Prince, of the royal line of Stewart, was the third son of Frederick, King of Bohemia and Elector Palatine, by Elizabeth daughter of James I. of England, born at Prague, 1619. He was Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Bavaria and Cumberland, Earl of

Holderness, and Knight of the Garter. He had not exceeded the thirteenth year of his age, when, with Henry, then Prince of Orange, he marched to the siege of Rhineberg; at eighteen years of age he commanded a regiment of horse in the German wars; and being taken prisoner at the battle of Ulota, by the Imperialists, he continued in captivity three years. In 1642 he came to England and offered his services to King Charles I. his uncle, who gave him a command in his army: and having performed important services in the royal cause, he was rewarded by the King with various honours and emoluments.

At Edgehill he charged with incredible bravery and made a great slaughter among the Parliamentarians. In 1643, he seized the town of Cirencester: obliged the governor of Lichfield to surrender; and having joined his brother Prince Maurice, reduced Bristol in three days, and passed to the relief of Newark. In 1644 he marched to relieve York, where he gave the Parliamentarians battle, and entirely defeated their right wing; but Cromwell charged the Marquis of Newcastle with such an irresistible force, that Prince Rupert was entirely defeated. After this the Prince put himself into Bristol, which surrendered to Fairfax, after a gallant resistance.

It is not easy to gather laurels in fighting against a conquering enemy; but if Prince Rupert could not by his prowess avert the inevitable

overthrow of the party he had engaged to support, yet after he had left the kingdom his successful encounter with the Dutch fleet, under De Ruyter, drew from Dryden and other contemporary poets, as well as from the chroniclers of those times, encomiums which might seem extravagant, if it were not known that his bravery was above all praise.

This Prince is celebrated for the invention of mezzotinto engraving, of which he is said to have taken the hint from a soldier scraping his rusty fusil. The first print of this kind ever published was done by his Highness, and may be seen in the first edition of "Evelyn's Sculptura." The secret is said to have been soon after discovered by Sherwin the engraver, who made use of a loaded file for laying the ground. The Prince upon sight of one of his prints suspected his servant had lent him his tool, which was a channelled roller, but upon being satisfied to the contrary, he made him a present of it. The roller was afterwards laid aside, and an instrument with a crenelled edge, in shape like a shoemaker's cutting knife, was used instead of it. The glass drops invented by him are well known. He also invented a metal called by his name, of which guns were cast; and contrived an excellent method of boring them, for which purpose a water-mill was erected at Hackney Marsh. He communicated to Christopher Kirby, the secret of

tempering the best fish-hooks made in England.

Prince Rupert, who was a man of harsh features, a great humorist, and of little elegance in his manners or dress, was but indifferently qualified to shine in the court of Charles II. He made a much better figure in his laboratory; or at the head of his fleet; in which station he was equal, in courage at least, to any of the sea officers of this reign. He died at his house in Spring Gardens, 29th of November, 1692. On his death Somerset, Marquis and Earl of Worcester, was a second time appointed to the Presidency by King James II. and in 1684 Sir John Bridgeman was President. He was a very severe man, frequently committing persons to the Porter's Lodge for trifling offences; on which account one Ralph Gittins, who had probably experienced his severity, composed the following distich.—

“Here lies Sir John Bridgeman, clad in his clay,
God said to the devil, sirrah, take him away.”

He was buried in Ludlow Church.

Charles, Lord Gerard of Brandon, Viscount Brandon, and Earl of Macclesfield, was the last Lord President; he was descended from the very ancient family of Geraldine, or Fitzgerald, in Ireland, he raised a regiment of foot and a troop of horse for Charles I. in the Civil War, and fought in many battles, with the ardour of a volunteer, displaying at the same time all the conduct of a veteran. He particularly signalized himself in Wales, where he took the fortresses of Cardigan,

Emblin, Langhorne, and Roche ; as also the strong town of Haverfordwest, with the castles of Picton and Carew. James II. began his reign in 1684, and three years afterwards visited Ludlow in his progress through the country. It is remarkable that during his stay at Ludlow on this occasion, his Majesty was the guest of Sir Job Charlton at Ludford House. In endeavouring to account for this circumstance, it must be remembered that the Earl of Macclesfield was one of the Lords who had a few years before presented the King, whilst Duke of York, as a popish recusant, at the King's Bench bar in Westminster Hall. The apparent design of his Majesty on this occasion was to gain popularity, and he every where manifested a wish to conciliate the good will of his subjects by a courteous behaviour, professing it to be his earnest wish to give full liberty of conscience, settled as firmly as Magna Charta had been.

In 1688, December 4th, The Lord Herbert of Cherbury, Sir Edward Harley, and most of the gentlemen of Worcestershire and Herefordshire met at Worcester, and declared for the Prince of Orange : Ludlow Castle was taken for the Prince by Lord Herbert; and Sir Walter Blount and the popish Sheriff of Worcester secured in it by that Peer.

The Court for the Government of Wales was dissolved by Act of Parliament in the year 1689.



East Gate of the Castle.

**Descriptive Account
OF THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE OF
LUDLOW.**

THE liberties of the Borough of Ludlow extend on the east to the township of Rock, to the township of Overton on the south, to further Halton on the west, and to the township of Stanton Lacy on the north. The Town, like Shrewsbury, is on a hill, with a declivity on

every side. It is spacious and well built, having a cleanly and cheerful appearance; surrounded by a country, which, in every direction, affords prospects highly beautiful.

Lloyd, in his "Breviarie of Britayne," describes this place, as the "fayre Towne and Castel of Ludlaw, vpon Themis in Screupshyre, in olde time called Dinav." Formerly this town was inclosed by a strong wall, about a mile in circumference, including the Castle: which, to use the words of Leland, "hemmeth in part of the town," and forming the most interesting object, first attracts attention.

The Castle rises from the point of a headland, and its foundations are ingrafted into a bare grey rock. The north front consists of square towers, with high connecting walls, which are embattled with deep interstices, and the old foss and part of the rock have been formed into walks, which in 1772 were planted with beeches, elms, and lime trees, at the expense of the late Countess of Powis. These trees having now grown to maturity, form a soothing and grateful shade, and add exceedingly to the beauty and dignity of the scene.

A bare and precipitate ridge runs parallel on the western side, and is beautifully crowned with wood, above a chasm through which the broad and shallow river Teme pursues its course. Having walked round the Castle, we enter the

base court, containing several acres. The principal entrance is by a gateway under a low pointed arch, worked within a former one of larger dimensions. On the right hand, as we enter this gateway, are the ruins of barracks, in constant use when the Castle was the Palace of the Lords Presidents of Wales; and further on is a square tower with its entrance from the wall; the embattled rampart, pierced with loops, remains here and there in picturesque masses; on the left is a range of stone buildings said to have been stables; on which appear the arms of Queen Elizabeth, with those of the Earl of Pembroke, who succeeded to the Presidency on the death of his relation Sir Henry Sidney. Contiguous are the ruins of the court house, which had a door outwardly, and beyond it is a lofty tower, called Mortimer's Tower.

This tower has been denominated semilunar: the inner face of it is indeed flat, but its outward projection forms rather a half oval than a semi-spherical figure. The lowest apartment has the appearance of having been a prison; the original entrance being through a circular aperture in the ponderous keystone of its vaulted roof.

The body of the Castle is on the north and west sides of the inclosure, guarded by a deep and wide foss, cut in the rock. A stone bridge of two arches, on which are some remains of an

embattled parapet, supplies the place of the ancient drawbridge, and leads to the great entrance gate.

The portal is of modern erection, of no great strength or beauty, constructed during the Presidency of Sir Henry Sidney. The arch is mean and flat, and the adjacent building has wide square transom windows, and high pointed gables. Over the portal is a niche with the following inscription, under the arms of England and France:—

ANNO DOMINI MILLESIMO QVINGENTESIMO
OCTAGESIMO COMPLETO, ANNO REGNI
ILLVSTRISSIMÆ AC SERENISSIMÆ REGINÆ
ELIZABETHÆ VICESIMO TERTIO
CURRENTE, 1581.

In a compartment below, with the armorial bearings of Queen Elizabeth and Sir Henry Sidney, is the following,—

HOMINIBVS INGRATIS LOQVIMINI LAPIDES.
ANNO REGNI REGINÆ ELIZABETHÆ 23.
THE 22 YEAR CPLET OF THE PRESIDENCY
OF SIR HENRI SIDNEY,
KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF
THE GARTER, ETC. 1581.

For the querulous beginning of it the Sidney papers will readily account. Sir Henry had been nurtured in courts, and intrusted with the government of Ireland, in the rigid administration of which he found many successful enemies; he therefore sought here a more peaceful occupation.

The first view of the interior of the Castle is strikingly fine. The court is an irregular square area not very spacious, but the lofty embattled structures with which it is inclosed, though in ruin, still preserving their original outlines; the bold masses of light and shade produced by deep retiring breaks; the rich tints and stains of age; the luxurious mantling of ivy, and the sullen stillness that now reigns throughout these forlorn and deserted towers, once the scene of royal splendor and feudal revelry, present a spectacle of the fallen magnificence of past ages, rarely to be equalled. Adjoining the gate are various apartments belonging to the Porter, the Warder, and probably the lower retainers of the President: near the entrance are the remains of a beautiful doorway leading to a staircase, with a frieze of quatrefoils, charged with shields, and flanked with small ornamental buttresses.

The Keep is a vast square embattled tower of early Norman architecture, rising on the left side of the gate to the height of 110 feet, ivy-mantled to the top, divided into four stories. At each of the angles is a small square turret, rising the whole height; that on the north larger than the other. The ground floor is the dungeon, or prison, formerly called Pendover, a gloomy and dreadful place of confinement, half under ground. The roof is arched, and 21 feet high. In the arch are three square openings communicating

with the chamber above ; these openings, besides supplying the means of letting down the prisoners, and inspecting them at pleasure from the governor's room above, are supposed to have been intended for raising supplies of ammunition, offensive implements, and provision during a siege. A strong arched doorway on the north side, evidently inserted a long time after the erection of the tower, has been intended for an entrance to this spacious vault. The ground floor measures 31 feet by 16. On the eastern side there is a quadrangular cell, worked in the wall, with two entrances, each retaining part of the hinges belonging to doors or grates. From these appearances the appropriation of this dark and uncomfortable apartment to purposes of revenge and tyrannical oppression has been presumed ; and some persons, inclined to credit an unsubstantiated tradition, would have us believe that this cavern was the den of a lion, said to have been kept here in savage ferocity, the *Executioner* of the Castle.

In the north-east turret a newel staircase winds up to the top of the keep, opposite to which towards the top of the south-east turret is a slight projection ; here tradition informs us a human being, for some heinous offence, was inclosed within the wall to suffer an agonizing death. Executions of this kind were by no means uncommon in ancient times ; King John ordered

Maud (the wife of William de Breos) and her son William to be inclosed in the wall of a tower of Corfe Castle, where they were starved to death. On the second floor is a large room 30 feet by 18, with a fire place; this communicates on the left with a square arched chamber, and on the right with a narrow oblong room which has also a groined roof, having two deep recesses in the dividing wall.

At the south-west angle of the larger apartment is a lobby, formed of three groined round arches, which leads to a narrow passage, communicating outwardly with a walk, once probably a covered way, on the rampart, which conducts to a small but strong tower at a distance. Above these have been other chambers similarly disposed, to which there now remains neither floors nor roof. The original arches to the doors and windows of this tower were all round and plain, the latter approaching outwardly to narrow loops; many have been enlarged and altered to pointed arches externally, but mostly bear their original forms within. This master tower measures 46 feet by 34; and the walls are from 9 to 12 feet thick. The ruins of the offices form a confused mass, extending a considerable way to the left, and into the court. A wide fire place in the wall marks the place of the kitchen; and where the brewhouse is said to have been, is a deep well, nine feet in diameter, in clearing

which, at the depth of 32 yards, a coat of fine pipe clay was found on the walls. The oven is on the ground floor of a tower next to the outer wall, near which place the bakehouse has been situated, it is of large dimensions, measuring 16 feet in length, 13 in breadth, and 4 in depth.

The enlarged scale on which these household offices appear to have been constructed, calculated to supply abundance, bordering on profusion, joined to the gloomy horrors of the dungeon, are strictly correspondent with gothic imagery, as equally necessary to unbounded hospitality, as to barbarous punishment.

The hall faces the gate, and was approached originally by a flight of steps, now destroyed; under it is a low room, with five deep recesses in the south wall; the same is continued under the apartment on the left. The hall door is a beautiful pointed arch, of the style of Edward the first's reign, ornamented with delicate mouldings, and before it seems to have been a porch or lobby. The hall measures 60 feet by 30, the height about 35 feet. On the north side, looking to the country, are three lofty pointed windows, diminishing outwardly to narrow lunets with trefoil heads. On the opposite side, next the court, are two windows in the same style, but larger, and each divided by a single mullion. Between these is a chimney with an obtuse arch of the æra of Elizabeth, inserted within a more lofty sharp

pointed one, which from its similitude to those adjoining, was, it is conceived, originally a third window, answering to the same number opposite; for there certainly were no fire places in halls when this building was erected.* There remains now neither roof nor floor; so totally dilapidated is the once elegant saloon, where the splendid scene of *Comus* was first exhibited, where chivalry exhausted her choicest stores, both of invention and wealth, and where hospitality and magnificence blazed for many ages in succession without diminution or decay. Two pointed arches lead to a spacious tower attached to the west end of the hall, in which are several apartments, one of which is still called Prince Arthur's room. The room on the first floor measures 37 feet by 33. At the north west angle is a deeply recessed closet: all the floors are much decayed, or entirely gone. On the opposite end of the hall, with a pointed arched door of communication, is another large square tower of three stories, the principal apartment of which is pointed out as the banqueting room. A spacious chamber above appears to have been more adorned than the rest; the chimneypiece has an unusual degree of rude magnificence; and the corbels of the ceiling are finely wrought into busts of men and women crowned. A door on the south side of the room

* "There is in the Hall (says Churhyard) a great grate of iron of a huge height."

on the ground floor opens to a winding passage which ends in some small gloomy rooms, and on the left to two deep angular recesses terminated by narrow loops looking outward. Each of these towers has a newel staircase in an elegant octangular turret.



West Entrance of the Chapel.

On the left hand is a circular building with window and doorway of the early Norman period; this is part of the Chapel, of which the nave only is standing. There is a beautiful arch still remaining, but the choir with which it communicated is entirely destroyed; this, as well as that of the western door, is a rich Saxon arch, covered with chevron, lozenge, and reticulated

ornaments. The outside of the building is encircled by a band with a billeted ornament, and there are three windows, circularly arched, ornamented with chevron mouldings. In the interior, rising from the floor, are fourteen recesses in the wall, formed by small pillars with indented capitals, supporting round arches which have alternately plain and zigzag mouldings. About three feet above this arcade are projecting corbels, carved as heads, capitals of pillars, &c. The whole length of the Chapel, extending to the eastern wall of the Castle, was, when entire, 70 feet, of which the choir was 42, and the nave 28.

Churchyard the poet, who died in 1570, had the pleasure of beholding the Castle and its Chapel in the perfection of their beauty, the latter of which he describes as,—

"So bravely wrought, so fayre and finely fram'd,
That to world's end the beautie may endure.
About the same are arms in colours stich'd
As few can shewe, in any soyle or place:
Which truely shewes the armes, the blood and race.
Of soudrie kings, but cheefly noble men,
That here in prose I will set out with pen.

All that follow are the names of Princes and Noblemen.

Sir Walter Lacie was the first owner of Ludlow Castle whose armes are there, and so followes the rest by order as you may reade.

Jeffrey Genyule did match with Lacie.

Roger Mortymer, the first Earle of Marchy, an Earle of a great house, matcht with Genyule.

Leoneil, Duke of Clarence, joined with Ulster in armes.

Edmond, Earle of Marchy, matcht with Clarence.

Richard, Earle of Cambridge, matcht with the Earle of Marchy.

Richard, Duke of Yorke, matcht with Westmerland.

Edward the fourth matcht with Wodvile of Rivers.

Henry the seventh matcht with Elizabeth right heire of England.

Henry the eight matcht with the Marquese of Penbroke.

These are the greatest first to be named that are set out worthely as they were of dignity and birth.

Now followes the rest of those that were Lord Presidents, and others whose armes are in the same Chappell.

William Smith, Bishop of Lincolne, was the first Lord President of Wales, in Prince Arthur's daies.

Jeffrey Blythe, Bishop of Coveatric and Litchfield, Lord President. Rowland Lee, Bishop of Coventrie and Litchfield, Lord President.

John Harman, Bishop of Exeter, Lord President. Richard Sampson, Bishop of Litchfield and Coventrie, Lord President.

John Dudley, Earle of Warwick, (after Duke of Northumberland) Lord President.

Sir William Harbert, (after Earle of Penbroke) Lord President.

Nicholas Heath, Bishop of Worcester, Lord President.

Sir William Harbert, once againe Lord President.

Gilbert Bourne, Bishop of Bath and Welles, Lord President.

Lord Williams of Tame, Lord President.

Sir Harry Sidney, Lord President.

Sir Andrew Corbret, knight Vicepresident.

There are two blanks left without armes.

Sir Thomas Dinharn, knight, is mentioned there to doe some great good act.

John Scory, Bishop of Hartford.

Nicholas Ballingham, Bishop of Worcester.

Nicholas Robinson, Bishop of Bangore.

Richard Davies, Bishop of Saint Davies.

Thomas Davies, Bishop of Saint Asaph.

Sir James Crofts, knight, controller.

Sir John Throgmorton, knight, Justice of Chester and the three shires of Eastwales.

Sir Hugh Cholmley, knight.

Sir Nicholas Arnold, knight.

Sir George Bromley, knight and Justice of the three shires in Wales.

William Gerrard, Lord Chauncellor of Ireland, and Justice of the three shires in Southwales.

Charles Fox, esquier and secretorie.

Ellice Price, Doctor of the Lawe.

Edward Leighton, esquier.

Richard Seborne, esquier.

Richard Pates, esquier.

Rafe Barton, esquier.

George Phetyplace, esquier.

William Leighton, esquier.

Myles Sande, esquier.

The armes of all these afore spoken of are gallantly and cunningly set out in the chappell."

From an inventory of the goods found in Ludlow Castle, bearing date 1708, the eleventh year of the reign of Queen Anne, we learn that about forty rooms were found entire at that period. Among these were the hall, council chamber,

Lord President's and my Lady's withdrawing rooms; the Steward's room, great dining room, chief Justice's room, second Judge's room, Prince Arthur's room, Captain's apartments, &c. also the kitchen, brewhouse, &c. and as in this inventory a table and altar are stated to have been found in the Chapel, we may presume the choir was at that time remaining.

The progressive stages of ruin to which this noble edifice was doomed to fall, may be distinguished in the accounts of travellers who visited it at various periods. In the account prefixed to Buck's Antiquities, published in 1774, it is observed, that many of the royal apartments were entire, and the sword of state with the velvet hangings was preserved. An extract from a tour through Great Britain, quoted by Grose as a just and accurate account of the Castle, represents the Chapel as having abundance of coats of arms upon the pannels, and the hall as decorated with the same kind of ornaments, together with lances, spears, firelocks, and old armour. Dr. Todd, in his learned edition of Comus, says, "a gentleman who visited the Castle in 1768 has acquainted me that the floor of the great council chamber was then pretty entire, as was the staircase. The covered steps leading to the Chapel were remaining, but the covering of the Chapel was fallen; yet the arms of some of the Lords Presidents were visible,

In the great council chamber was inscribed on the wall a sentence from 1 Samuel, Chapter 12, Verse 3; all which are now wholly gone."

Soon after the accession of George I. an order is said to have come down for unroofing the buildings and stripping them of their lead. Decay of course soon ensued. Many of the pannels, bearing the arms of the Lords Presidents, were converted into wainscotting for a public house in the town, a former owner of which enriched himself by the sale of materials clandestinely taken away. There remains, also, a richly embroidered carpet, hung up in the chancel of St. Lawrence's church, said to be part of the covering of the council board.

The Earl of Powis, who previously held the Castle in virtue of a long lease, acquired the reversion in fee, by purchase from the crown, in the year 1811.

From the time that some fixed mode of building was established, it is not difficult to ascertain the periodical changes which have succeeded; yet there may well be supposed intermediate times wherein the former mode is found more or less mixed with that which has not become exclusively adopted. Writers learned in these studies, have, with great labour of research, endeavoured to collect from accounts darkly traced by the historian and the antiquary, the periods in which the various modes of architec-

ture found in ancient buildings, have succeeded each other: these have been arranged under four general heads or periods.

In the **FIRST PERIOD**, early Norman architecture flourished till 1100, the time of Henry I. The keep of this Castle is to be referred to this period, having the general characteristics of the buildings erected by the first Norman Barons, towering height, massive strength, embattled turrets, &c. The round tower of the Chapel is classed with the four specimens of this mode found at the Temple Church at London, St. Sepulchre's at Cambridge, and the round churches of Northampton and Maplested. Sacred edifices of this description, which are apparently copied from the church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, are said to have been first erected in England about the time of the first Crusade, soon after the millenary year of the christian æra, and must of course be referred to the first period.

The **SECOND PERIOD** commencing with Henry I. in 1100, is extended to the time of Henry III. 1250.

The **THIRD PERIOD** includes part of Henry III. with the three first Edwards, to Henry IV. from 1250 to 1400. The whole range of buildings on the north side of the court, consisting of two great square towers, connected by a curtain, in which are the hall and rooms of state,

are attributed to the middle of this period ; having sharp pointed arches, delicate ribbed mouldings, &c. The offices and ramparts were also erected in this period.

In the FOURTH PERIOD, from 1400 to 1600, will be included the modern additions and repairs : of these, some chimney pieces and arches, with several windows in the keep, and a flat arched door within a square, as a new and more airy entrance to the dungeon, may be referred to the fifteenth century. The ornamented remains of a small door to a staircase in the interior gatehouse may be assigned to the time of Prince Arthur's residence, and the gate, with its adjoining rooms, are of Queen Elizabeth's reign, as are also the stables in the exterior court.

The Castle, in the approach to it from different parts of Whitcliff hill, has a grand and imposing aspect ; it is also seen to advantage from the road to Oakley Park ; from various other positions the effect is truly grand, and in some points of view the towers are richly clustered, with the largest in the centre.

The opening towards the north displays the windings of the Teme, with the mansion of Oakley Park, half hid by trees ; and is terminated with a bold outline, formed by the Clee hills, Caer Caradoc, and other hills near Stretton. The more confined view towards the west exhibits a bold eminence, partly clothed with

wood, the rocks of Whitcliff with the rapid stream at their base, and in short a full union of those features in rural scenery which constitute the picturesque. The loveliness of nature is heightened by contrast with the venerable grey towers of the Castle, and the effect of the whole is calculated at once to awaken the enthusiasm of fancy, and to diffuse the calm of contemplation.

Inspired by a survey of these interesting objects, various poetical effusions have appeared ; among which the following is of a superior character.

ODE TO LUDLOW CASTLE.

"Proud pile that rear'd thy hoary head,
In ruin vast, in silence dread,
O'er Teme's luxuriant vale,
Thy moss grown halls, thy precincts drear,
To musing fancy's pensive ear,
Unfold a varied tale.

When terror stalk'd the prostrate land
With savage Cambria's ruthless band,
Beneath thy frowning shade,
Mix'd with the grazer's of the plain,
The plundered helpless peasant train,
In sacred ward were laid.

From yon high tower the archer drew
With steady arm the stubborn yew,
While, fierce in martial state,
The mailed host in long array,
With crested helms and banners gay,
Burst from the thundering gate.

In happier times how brightly blazed
The hearth with ponderous billets raised,
How rung the vaulted halls.
When smok'd the feast, when care was drown'd,
When songs and social glee went round,
Where now the ivy crawls.

'Tis past ! the Marcher's princely court,
 The strength of war the, gay resort,
 In mouldring silence sleeps ;
 And o'er the solitary scene,
 While nature hangs her garlands green,
 Neglected Memory weeps.

The muse too weeps : in hallowed hour
 Here sacred Milton own'd her power,
 And woke to nobler song ;
 The wizard's baffled wiles essay'd,
 Here first the pure angelic maid
 Subdued th' enraptured throng.

But see ! beneath yon shatter'd roof
 What mouldy cavern, sunbeam proof,
 With mouth infectious yawns !
 O ! sight of dread ! O ! ruthless doom !
 On that deep dungeon's solid gloom
 Nor hope nor daylight dawns.

Yet there at midnight's sleepless hour,
 While boisterous revels shook the tower,
 Bedew'd with damp, forlorn,
 The warrior captive press'd the stones,
 And lonely breathed unheeded groans,
 Despairing of the morn.'

That too is past ; unsparing time,
 Stern miner of the tower sublime,
 Its night of ages broke,
 Freedom and peace with radiant smile
 Now carol o'er the dungeon vile
 That cumb'rous ruins choke.

Proud relic of the mighty dead !
 Be mine with shuddering awe to tread
 Thy roofless weedy hall,
 And mark with fancy's kindling eye,
 The steel-clad ages gliding by,
 Thy feudal pomp recal.

Peace to thy stern heroic age !
 Nor stroke of wild unhallowed rage
 Assail thy tottering form !
 We love, when smiles returning day,
 In cloudy distance to survey
 The remnant of the storm."

From the "Athenaeum," vol. 2.



North View of the Church.

BEGINNING our perambulation of the Town from the north front of the Castle, we pass on eastward in a line with the town wall, which remains here nearly entire, serving as a foundation for garden walls, continued almost to the Church. Not far from the north-east corner of the Castle, tradition says there has formerly been a Priory, and some writers describe vestiges of the chapel belonging to it; but these accounts are doubtful.

We enter the Churchyard where the gate called Linney gate formerly stood. This name it either receives from, or gives to, the lane into

which it opens ; which lane leads circuitously into the lower part of Corve Street.

A literary gentleman of Ludlow is of opinion that the name Linney has arisen from this lane having been the way to the chapel of Saint Leonard, deriving the term etymologically, Leonard, Lenney, Linney ; but it is altogether as probable that the name has been given in the British æra of Ludlow, from *Llanllheney*, the place, or receptacle, of monks or learned men.

The Church of Ludlow stands in the highest part of the town, and is a stately and very spacious structure, in the form of a cross, with a lofty and well adorned tower in the centre, in which is a melodious peal of eight bells. The principal entrance from the town is by a large hexagonal porch. The nave is divided from the aisles by six lofty pointed arches on each side, springing from light clustered pillars, each consisting of four taper shafts, with the intermediate spaces hollowed. Above them is a clerestory, with a range of heavy unpleasing windows. The great western window is entirely modernised and its richly ornamented mullions destroyed. The four great arches under the tower are remarkably bold : beneath the eastern arch is the choral rood loft, the lower part of which is embellished with open carved work, but upon it has been erected a modern gallery. Above which stands a large and very fine toned organ, given by Henry

Arthur Earl of Powis, in the year 1764; it cost £1000.

This Church having been formerly collegiate, possessed the characteristics of religious establishments of that denomination, of which the rood loft or perke was an essential; and here we find it was most elegantly fitted up as in cathedrals, with stalls on each side. These stalls remain entire and are of excellent workmanship, having been originally intended for the use of the ten priests of the rich chantry founded in the adjoining chapel of St. John of Jerusalem. Music, painting, and language are the three modes by which ideas are excited and communicated; the two former were especially used in the ancient church services, and psalm singing formed a necessary part of a religious education. It is not known when the ten priests ceased to officiate, conferring splendor and dignity on the choral service; yet in the registers mention is made of Master of the choristers (the Precentor) a considerable time after the reformation.

The choir is spacious, and lighted by five lofty pointed windows on each side, and one of much larger dimensions on the east end, which occupies the whole breadth, and nearly the whole height of this part of the building. This great window is entirely filled with painted glass, though not of rich colouring, representing chief-

ly the legend of St. Lawrence the patron saint of the Church, In the side windows are also large remains of stained glass, principally figures of saints, of richer colouring than those of the eastern window.

The chapel of St. John is north of the choir ; in the windows of which are paintings representing the history of the Apostles, and also splendid remnants of stained glass portraying the story of the ring presented by some Pilgrims to Edward the Confessor, who, as the chronicles relate, "was warned of hys death certain dayes before hee dyed, by a ring that was brought to him by certain Pilgrimes comming from Hierusalem, which ring hee hadde secretly given to a poore man that asked hys charitie in the name of God and sainte John the Evangelist." These Pilgrims, as the legend recites, were men of Ludlow.

At the north transept is a square building called the Fletcher's Chancel, on the top of which is an arrow. It is a probable conjecture, that this erection has been for the use of the Archers (*Flecheurs*, Norman-French) who might keep their bows and arrows, and hold their meetings here. Archery was formerly much encouraged, and English Archers became the best in Europe. The Artillery Company in London are the remains of the ancient Bowmen or Archers, the French word *Artillerie* signifying Archery. The English chronicles do not mention Archery till

the time of Richard I. in 1199. In the year 1341 Edward III. issued an order to the sheriffs for each of them to provide five hundred white bows and five hundred bundles of arrows; similar orders were successively given, and at the battle of Cressy two thousand Archers were opposed to the same number of French. Sir John Fortesque repeatedly gives his opinion, that "the might of the realme of England standyth upon Archers." James I. of Scotland, in his first Parliament, enacted, "that all men might busk thame to be Archares, fra the be 12 years of age; and that at ilk ten punds worth of land, thair be made bow marks, and speciablie near paroche kirks, quhairn upon halie dayis men may cum, and at the leist schute thryce about and have usage of Archarie: and whasa usis not Archarie, the laird of the land sal rais of him a wedder; and giff the laird raisis not the said pane, the kings shirif sal rais it to the king." And in the fifth year of Edward IV. every Englishman was enjoined, by act of Parliament, to have a bow as high as himself; and butts were ordered in every township; the inhabitants to shoot at these butts every feast day, under penalty of one halfpenny for every omission. This exercise had somewhat declined, and was again enforced by statute 33 Henry VIII.

At the south transept are two chancels, but respecting these all that is known is that the

Cordwainers and other companies have, from a remote period to the present time, continued to meet in them.

Chantryies were originally endowed with lands for the support of a priest to offer up prayers for the souls of the departed. This use of them was prohibited by Edward the sixth; yet the property of the building remained with the descendants of the founders, with the exclusive right of sitting and burying therein, as long as they kept them in repair. The names of Beawpy, Cookes, and Hozier are recorded as leaving endowments for chantryies in Ludlow Church.

The whole of this noble parish Church is ceiled with fine oak and embellished with carving. The extreme length from east to west is 203 feet, of which the nave is 93, the space under the tower 30, and the choir 80. The breadth of the nave and aisles is 82 feet; the transept measures 130 feet; and the breadth of the choir is 22 feet. The tower rises 130 feet, and forming a prominent object, gives considerable beauty to many prospects from the neighbouring country. It is quadrangular, and the upper part near the battlements was originally adorned with highly finished statues of saints, &c. These were deemed by Oliver Cromwell's officers, when they were possessed of this town, superfluous and irreligious, and were accordingly either much mutilated, or entirely destroyed. Numerous similar works in

various parts of the church suffered the same fate.

Leland and other authors notice this church, as being superior to any in this part of the country; and learned writers are agreed that its style of architecture is that of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, as practised by the immortal Wykeham, in the nave of Winchester, and at New College, Oxford.

It will grieve the lover of elaborate monumental sculpture, so prevalent in the last century but one, to see the mutilation which the highly finished effigies in white marble, of Sir John Bridgeman and his lady have undergone. These recumbent figures are in a style of execution superior to that of Nicholas Stone, who does not particularize this work in his catalogue preserved by Vertue, and given by Mr. Walpole. From the very minute resemblance to portraits by Van dyke, it may be presumed that they were finished, as those mentioned in the Cathedral at Gloucester, by the ingenious Francisco Fanelli, who was much employed in England during the reign of Charles I.

The spirit of the ancient religion particularly enjoined the practice of "Almose dedes," and sanctified the memory of the dead who had distinguished themselves as the benefactors of mankind and friends of the poor; hence we yet find in most of the ancient churches carefully preserved records of the charitable donations of

opulent individuals, who hoped so to raise for themselves a lasting monument in the gratitude of posterity. Many of these records are to be seen here, but some of the more ancient and important are now destroyed, and which through inattention would be totally forgotten, were it not that we find in ancient authors notices of their former existence.

Leland says, "I noted these graves of men of fame in Ludlow Church. Beauvie, or Beaufrie, sometime Cofferer to king Edward the fourth. Cokkis, a gentleman servitor to Prince Arthur. Dr. Denton, Master of St. John's in Ludlow. Suliard, Justice of the Marches of Wales. Hosyer, a Merchant." And Churhyard speaks of "Ludloe" as—

— "a town of noble fame,
Where monuments are found in auncient guise;
Where kings and queens in pompe did long abyde,
And where God please that good Prince Arthur dyde."

He also briefly particularises the memorial inscriptions in the Church in the following verses;

"Within the quere there is a Ladie leyd
In tomb most rich, the top of fayre touchstone:
There was bestow'd in honour of this mayd
Great cost and charge, the treasur may well be knowne.
For as the tombe is built in sumptuous guise,
So to the same a closet fayre is wrought,
Where lords may sit in stately solemnise wise,
As though it were a fine device of thought
To beautifie both tombe and every part
Of that fayre worke that there is made by arte.

Against that tombe, full on the other side,
A knight doth lye, that justice Townesend hight:
His wife likewise, so soone as that she dyed,
In this rich tombe was buried by this knight:
And trueth to tell Dame Alice was her name,
An heire indeede that brought both wealth and land,

And as world sayth a worthie vertuous dame,
Whose auncient armes in colours there doth stand :
And many more, whose armes I do not knowe,
Unto this knight are joined all a roe.

Amid the church a chauntrie chappel stands,
Where Hozier lyes, a man that did much good :
Bestow'd great wealth, and gave thereto some lands,
And helpt poore soules that in necessitie stood.
As many men are bent to win good will
By some good turne that they may frely shewe :
So Hozier's hands and head were working still,
For thoes he did in det or daunger knowe.
He amyld to see a begger at his doore :
For all his joye was to releeve the poore.

Another man whose name was Cookes for troth,
Like Hozier was in all good gifts of Grace.
This Cookes did give great lands an livinges both ;
For to maiutain a chauntrie in that place.
A yearely dole, and monthly almes likewise
He ordain'd there, which now the poore do mis :
His wife and he within that chappel lyes,
Where yet full plaine the chauntrie standing is.
Some other things of note there may you see
Within that Church, not touched now by mee.

Yet Beawpy must be nam'd, good reason why,
For he bestowed great charge before he dyde,
To helpe poore men, and now his bones do lie
Full nere the font, upon the foremost side.
Thus in those daies the poore was lookt unto,
The rich was glad to fling their wealth away :
So that their almes the poore some good might do.
In poore mens boxe who doth his treasure lay,
Shall finde again ten fold for one he leaves :
Or els my hope and knowledge me deceives."

"On the left hand Hozier lyes in the body of the church : on the
right hand Cookes lyes. Beawpy was a great ritch vertuous man,
he made another chantry."

Among the monumental inscriptions are the
following ;—

Hearc lyethe the bodye of Ambrosia Sidney iijith daughter of
the Right Honourable Syr Henrye Sydney, Knight of the moste
noble order of the Garter, Lorde President of the Counsell of Walles
&c : And of the Ladie Marye his wyfe, daughter to the famous
Duke of Northumberland, who dyed in Ludlowe Castell ye 22nd
of Februarie 1574.

Hearc lieth the bodyes of Syr Robart Towneshead, Knight,
Chief Justice of the Counsell in the Marches of Walles and Ches-
ter: and Dame Alice his wyfe, Daughter and one of the heires of
Robert Povye, Esquire, whoe had betwyne them twoo, XII chyl-
dren, VI sonnes and VI doughters lawfully begot.

Heere lye the bodies of Edmynnd Walter, Esquier, chieffe Iustice of three shires in South Wales, and one of His Majestie's Covncill in the Marches of Wales; and of Mary his wife, daughter of Thomas Hacklvit, of Eyton, Esquier, who had issue three sonnes named James, Iohn, and Edward, and two daughters named Mary and Dorothy. He was buried the 29 day of Ianvarie, Anno Domini 1592.

Here lyeth expectinge a loyfull Resurrection, the body of Dame Mary Evre, late wife to Right Hon. Raiphe Lord Evre, Baron of Malton, Lord President of the Principallie and Marches of Wales, and Lieutenant of the same, and Daughter of Sr. John Dawnay, of Sessey, in the County of Yorke, Knight. She departed thyss mortall lyfe the 19th day of March, Anno Domini 1512, etatis sive 35.

In Memory of Theophilus Salwey, Esq. who was the eldest son of Edward Salwey, Esq. a younger son of Major Richard Salwey, who in the last century sacrificed all and every thing in his power in support of Public Liberty, and in opposition to Arbitrary Power. The said Theophilus Salwey married Mary the Daughter and Heires of Robert Denett, of Walthamstow in the County of Essex, Esq. but left no issue by her. Obiit the 28th of April, 1766, etat. 61.

Pro Rege aspe: pro Republica semper.

Sacrum Memoriam Dni Johannis Brydgerman, Militis, Servientis ad legem et capitalis Justiciarij Cœtria. Qui maximo omnium Bonorum Merore, (cum 70 annos vixisset) 5th Febr. anno 1636, Pie Blacideq; animam Deo reddidit.

Francisca Vxor mortissima possuit.

The head of Sir John Bridgeman's tomb was opened in 1805 (on sinking a grave for the body of Mrs. Turner) when the hair of both Sir John and his Lady were found perfectly entire; the coffins mouldered on exposure to the air.

O Quisquis Ades!
Reverere manes Inclitos
Edoardi Vayghan, e Trawcoed Arm. *τὸν εὐώνυμον*:
Johannis Vayghan, Equitis Herois,
Heredis ex Traduce,
Proin patris magu' ad instar,
Per omnia gena: literaturæ, sive academicas, sive forensias,
Spatia
Huc acerrime vel a puerò contendit;
Vt principi et patriæ
Egregie inserviret;
Quod feliciter assecutus est,
Vtricq; gratus et amabilis,
Et spectatissimus civis
In ipsa temporum
Virgine;

Vt scias hic condii quem antiqui dixerunt
 Virum cubicum.
 Et divinum.
 Talis tantusq; flentibus etiam inimicis,
 Commortentibus pene amicis,
 Ipse solo iacto et lubente,
 Receptus est
 In Beatorum patrum.
 Anno { Dni MDCLXXXIV.
 { Etatis sue 48o.
 Conjugi parenti; desideratissimo
 Vidua cum liberis,
 Perpetim lugens,
 Hoc mortale monumentum
 P.
 Ipse sibi immortale epitaphium.

The time of the building of this Church is not recorded, but from an attentive survey of its architecture it is supposed to have been early in the sixteenth century; and writers living in that or the following age speak of it as newly brought to a state of perfection by the society who raised and supported it. "This Church (says Leland) has been much advanced by a brotherhood therein founded in the name of St. John the Evangelist, the original whereof was (as the people say there) in the time of Edward the Confessor, and it is constantly affirmed there, that the Pilgrims that brought the ring from St. John the Evangelist to King Edward were the inhabitants of Ludlow." If we credit this account, we must believe that from the time of the fourth Edward a sacred edifice stood here of sufficient impor-

"Some of the ancient philosophers denominated a perfect character a *cubic man*; because they said that, like a die, let him be tossed by Fortune howsoever he might, he would always stand upright and unharmed."

tance to be the depository of the mouldering remains of the great: particularly that of Edward's Cofferer of the Household, an Officer formerly of the first importance.

We are sanctioned therefore in the presumption that the present fabric has, from an older foundation, been gradually advanced to perfection by the ancient fraternity of Palmers, who have been always found attached to it as far as the history of either can be distinctly traced: the remnants of painted glass in the eastern window of the north chancel, distinguished from the other paintings by richer colouring and superior execution, seems to favour this opinion.

In the King's books the living of Ludlow is valued at £19 12s. 6d. And this estimate being under £20 it is consequently at the disposal of the Lord Chancellor. It is a Rectory, and its present value is said to be £200 per annum. There is a Reader and Lecturer, whose salaries are paid partly by the Corporation and partly by the Parish. It is in the Bishoprick of Hereford, and Ludlow is the capital of this division of the Diocese.

The Visitations, or Ecclesiastical Courts, are held twice a year, generally in May and October, for proving wills, granting letters of administration, &c. The Proctors reside at Hereford. Four Apparitors officiate, who reside at Ludlow.

Only part of the pews in the Church are the

hereditary property of the parishioners, these are transferable, either during a residence in the parish, or for one or more lives. Those denominated freehold are saleable at any time, a proper entry being made in the parish book. The sale of vacant, or forfeited pews, amounts to a general average of £60 yearly.

Near the Churchyard is

THE ALMSHOUSE.

It is a neat and handsome structure, containing thirty-three very comfortable apartments. It was founded by Mr. John Hosyer, a Merchant, in the year 1486, but being much damaged during so long a period of time, was rebuilt in the year 1758 at the expense of the Corporation.

This Almshouse, originally erected and endowed by Mr. Hosyer, seems to have been by him devised to the ancient fraternity of the Palmers, with property for its support. It is described in the Particular of the Guild Estate, as "an Almshouse to the Guild appertaining, with 33 chambers therein, inhabited by poor people, according to the foundation and ordinance of Mr. John Hosyer, to every of which poor people is weekly allowed 4d. according to the same ordinance;" but nothing further is discoverable respecting its origin or its founder. The present substantial erection cost £1211 18s. 2½d. and is kept in very good repair at the average charge

of £10 a year. A new iron railing has lately been put up in front, which cost £70.

Over the door, and under the arms of the town is the following inscription.—



Domum hanc Eleemosynarum
 Munificentia Johannis Hosyer, Mercatoris,
 Anno salutis MCCCCLXXXVI. primitos extractam.
 Temporis injuria labefactam diu et ruituram,
 In Dei Optimi Maximi gloriam, pii fundatoris
 Memoriam, et comodiorem
 Pauperum receptionem; ab ipsis usque
 Fundamentis propriis sumptibus,
 Resuscitarunt, Ampliarunt, Ornarunt,
 Ballivi, Burgenses, et Communitas
 Ville hujus de Ludlow,
 Anno Domini MDCCCLVIII.
 Augustissimi Regis Georigi secundi
 Tricesimo primo.

The weekly allowance of fourpence to each of the inmates was deemed liberal at the period of its commencement; but the gradual alteration in the value of property and the necessities of life has induced the Corporation to make a voluntary advancement on the sum allowed, which is now two shillings and sixpence weekly to each. Adjoining this building is

THE COLLEGE.

The old Mansion House of the fraternity of the Palmers, is now divided and let out to various occupants. The extensive possessions formerly belonging to this association form not only the groundwork and permanent support of the most important charities established in Ludlow, but from this original also first arose the surplus property of the Corporation. The arduous struggle between Priestly and Kingly domination ending at last in the subversion of the former by that unconscientious monarch Henry VIII. the property of the church, and even of private religious associations, were left entirely exposed to his rapacity. Under these circumstances of apprehended danger, the Palmer's Guild agreed to surrender their property to the King, on a promised condition that the property so surrendered should be returned to the town of Ludlow, to support its old religious and charitable establishments, sanctioned by the crown: though this purpose was not effected during Henry's reign, yet in the beginning of that of his successor the society was dissolved, and the property given up. Upon which the King is said to have been induced, "by the supplications of the Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty," to return the surrendered property, with an injunction that it should in part be applied to support

the old religious and charitable establishments. Hence in 1552 "King Edward VI. granted to the Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of Ludlow, the College House belonging originally to the Palmer's Guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with all the lands, messuages, &c. belonging to the said Guild." Part of the issues and profits of the said premises to be appropriated to the purpose of supporting the Grammar School of Ludlow, to be kept by one Master and one Usher: and also out of the profits of the said premises to be supported thirty-three poor indigent persons of Ludlow, giving to each of them four pence a week, and one chamber for each to live in. It was ordered also that one discreet, able, and fit person, learned in holy writ, a man famous for innocence and integrity of life, should be, and be called, the Preacher; and also another able and fit person be, and be called assistant to the Rector of Ludlow. The salaries of both to be paid out of the issues of the said premises. The Bailiffs, Burgesses, &c. of Ludlow, at their own proper cost to support the above-named charitable and pious institutions, and also to pay to the King eight pounds thirteen shillings and four pence yearly.

PREACHER AND ASSISTANT.

The Preacher is now called the Lecturer, appointed by the Corporation, and receives yearly £26 18s. 4d. with a house which is let for

£20 a year, his duty consists in preaching a sermon every Sunday evening. The Lecturer also receives £4 8s. annually out of Mr. Walter's Charity. The Assistant to the Rector, now called the Reader, receives from the Corporation £85 a year, and has a house which lets for £15, making the whole income £100 a year. The duties of his office are to read prayers twice on Sundays and once on other days.

THE ORGANIST

of the Church formerly received £4, and is now paid 30 guineas a year; out of which the Blower has 30 shillings. The Warden of the Guild had formerly £2 6s. 8d. The Collector of the rents £5, and the Auditor £2 13s. 4d. The Warden is now called the Chamberlain and has 10*l.* a year, the Collector has 40*l.* and the expense of an Audit is 3*l.* 17s. 6d.

CHARITIES.

Walter's Charity.—James Walter, Esq. left by will dated 26th, February, 1624, £10 to be paid annually to the poor in the Almshouse, and £10 to be bestowed yearly on the Parson and Preacher.

Mr. Tomlyne's Charity—bequeathed in 1652, is stated to have been £33 6s. 8d. described as one rent, and designed for the benefit and relief of the poor of the town of Ludlow; but no account can be found of the application of this money till the year 1716, in which year there is an entry in the Corporation ledger, of the date of February 23, in which it is ordered that £20 per annum should be secured to the trustees of the charity school, out of the tolls of the market; and it is declared that the said £20, together with the sum of £18 12s. lately appropriated, and then paid by the Town renter for the use of the Almshouse, was in full satisfaction for Mr. Tomlyne's Charity. £20 per annum has since continued to be paid to the charity school, or national school with which it is combined. The remaining £13 6s. 8d. is considered as forming part of the weekly payments to the Almspeople.

Candland's Charity.—Thomas Candland, by will dated 15th, April, 1617, left 20*s.* to be paid annually to the poor of the Almshouse, or the poor of Ludlow, as the Bailiffs for the time being may see cause:

this money is regularly paid by the proprietor of Cawland's house in Draper's Row, at the head of Pepper Lane. It is distributed among the thirty-three residents in Hoyer's Almshouse.

Archer's Charity—is 20s annually, received on Good Friday from the proprietor of Sutton's Close, in the parish of St. Lawrence and distributed in the same manner as the last-mentioned.

Susan Gay's Charity,—commonly called Plumer's Money, amounts to £6 annually, given to the inmates of Hoyer's and the Corve Street Almshouses.

Morgan Lloyd's Money,—amounting to 18s. 4d. is annually received at Duham House, and divided among the inmates of Hoyer's foundation.

Mary Beetenson's Charity—is an annuity of £2 12s. 8d paid to the poor in shares.

Ann Smith's Charity—amounts annually to 24 10s. 6d. paid to the poor in shares.

Susannah Smith's Charity—of 100s is invested in Navy 5 per cent, and the interest given half yearly to the Almshpeople.

These small payments amount annually to 12s 6d. for each of the Almshpeople; and added to the weekly pay of 2s. 6d from the Corporation, makes the yearly income of each amount to 7s. 2s. 6d.

Lane's Charity.—Thomas Lane by a codicil to his will, 19th of June 1676, bequeathed closes of land, contiguous to Frog Lane, to feoffees in trust, the rents to be weekly disposed of to twelve poor widows, in bread or money. The land is estimated in the deed at 3 acres and a half, but at present measures only 1 acre 3 rods 34 perches, which variation cannot be accounted for. It is let in three divisions, to Mr. E. Smith one at 14s. one to Mr. T. Smith at 6s. and one to Mr. T. Cook at 3s. 10s. all the term of 31 years, from the 2nd. of February 1811, producing together 23s. 10s. per annum. No appointment of trustees has taken place since 1745: the charity is therefore in the management of the Corporation.

Phillips' Charity.—Evan Phillips left 32*l.* or 34*l.* to purchase property to supply an income for charitable distribution to twelve poor decayed old men or women of the town of Ludlow, with this money land was purchased, formerly called Green Linney, now known by the name of Poor's Close, rented by Mr. W. Russell at 1*l.* a year, which supplies the means of the distribution made under the name of "Phillips' Charity."

Alderman Davies' Charity.—Richard Davies by his will, August 20, 1699, left 100*s.* to purchase lands, the income of which should be given to eight poor widows. What is become of this land is not known; but the Corporation makes an annual payment of 6*s.* to eight poor widows, which is called "Alderman Davies' Charity;" the widows are appointed by the Bailiffs, and continue to receive this donation during their lives.

Mrs. Handford's Charity.—Mrs. Eleahor Handford left 25*l.* the interest to be given to the poor of Castle Street ward. The Bailiffs distribute this interest money in half-crowns on Good Friday annually.

Long's Charity—is the interest of 20*s.* given annually in shillings to twenty selected poor persons of the parish of St. Lawrence.

Mrs. Robinson's Charity.—Mrs. Robinson, the Bishop of Llandaff's Lady, as she is called in the charity book, bequeathed 100*s.* to the

poor of Ludlow, the interest to be applied as follows; viz. 30s. to the charity school, and 30s. to twenty poor housekeepers, to be named on St. John the Evangelist's day. Of this money no other account is found than this—that the 100*l.* was applied towards discharging a debt belonging to the Corporation, and a bond given for it. 2*l.* 10*s.* the half of the interest is yearly distributed in half crowns to twenty poor persons. The other half is supposed to have been given to the charity school.

Meyricke's and Sir Timothy Tourneur's charities.—Thomas Meyricke, Alderman of Ludlow, by his will, 18th April, 1724, bequeathed to the Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty 40*l.* in trust, to be lent from time to time to four poor tradesmen, not being ale-sellers, for three years, without interest, in sums of 10*l.* each, the Corporation taking proper security.

Sir Timothy Tourneur, Knight, his Majesty's Sergeant at Law, by a testamentary paper reciting that, by God's Providence, Ludlow had been to him a special place of his practice and thriving in the world, he did upon that consideration bequeath 100*l.* to be lent to four young tradesmen, from three years to three years, in equal shares on sufficient security.

These benefactions are now united, and lent to poor tradesmen in shares of 35*l.* each.

Thomas Meyricke also bequeathed to the Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty 40*l.* to be by them secured, to pay the charity schools in Ludlow 40*s.* a year. These bequests of Meyricke and Tourneur, the evidence of which is contained in copies of the extracts entered in the old charity books, complete the list of existing charities under the management of the Corporation.

Gwilliams' charity.—Richard Gwilliams, by his will, 1st October, 1629, gave to the Parson of Ludlow, the Vicar of Leominster, and the Vicar of King's Capel, each 3*l.* a year to be issuing out of his messuages, lands, &c in Herefordshire, to the intent that they should distribute 20*s.* thereof yearly to poor impotent persons in each of those places. The money for each of the above-mentioned places is regularly received and distributed, but it does not appear that a proper investment was made according to the directions in the will of the founder.

Dr. Sonnibank's charity.—Charles Sonnibank, D.D. by deed dated October 1635, bequeathed a reserve rent, out of land at Hopessay, of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to be paid quarterly at the Parsonage house to ten poor widows of Ludlow, the Parson to retain 6*s.* 8*d.* for his care in receiving it. This money is received and distributed as directed; by the Rector, or the Clerk as his agent.

Horne's benefaction.—In 1640, Robert Horne gave by will to the Rector of the parish Church of St. Lawrence for the time being, for ever, a rent charge of 10*l.* per annum. This sum is received and paid as appointed. The Deeds are not in the hands of the Rector.

Mrs. Higginson's charity.—Mrs Jane Higginson of Doddington, in the parish of Whitechurch, by her will, dated March 15th 1708, gave 5*l.* per annum to five decayed tradesmen's widows, for keeping clean the chancel of the Church; and she also gave to the Rector of Ludlow 5*l.* a year. These donations are regularly paid.

Morgan's charity.—It is recorded on a tablet in the Church of St. Lawrence, bearing date 10th July, 1766, that the Rev. Richard Morgan, Rector of Clunbury, left to the Rector, Lecturer, and Reader of this parish for the time being, the sum of 140*l.* in trust, to pay for the reboiling of poor children.

The present fund derived from this bequest is £25 $\frac{3}{4}$ 3 per cent consols. How it came to be reduced to that sum is not discoverable. The dividends are now paid as a contribution to the national school.

Hollingsworth's charity, and Nash's charity.—Thomas Hollingsworth left by will, 23rd. February 1809, 50*l.* 4 per cent bank annuities, the dividends to be laid out in bread, and distributed at Christmas to poor widows.

Richard Nash, by will dated May 15th. 1814, gave 100*l.* the interest to be given among the poor on Christmas day. With this legacy 100*l.* navy 5 per cent stock was purchased. The dividends arising from these legacies, amounting to 7*l.*, are given away in twopenny and sixpenny loaves among the poor at Christmas, at the Guildhall.

LOST CHARITIES.

George Foxe of Stoke, by will, dated 1st. October, 1586, gave 30*l.* for charitable purposes.

Margarite Badie, by will dated 22nd. March, 1511, gave 20*l.*

Robert Lewis, alias Drapper, by will dated 15th. May, 1571, gave 20*l.*

William Lamb, by deed dated 15th of May, 1579, gave 100*l.*

Richard Rogers, by will dated 26th March, 1571, gave 10*l.* and the interest arising from his leasehold property in Portman meadow, and a close of pasture in Goalford.

Thomas Pingle, by will dated 22nd. of April, 1640, gave 20*l.* the interest to be divided, one half to the Almshouse, the other to the poor of Ludlow.

Mr. Hugh Attwell gave 33*s.* 4*d.* "to keep the poor at work; the stock for ever to remain; the gain the poor's."

BLUE COAT CHARITY SCHOOL.

There was an ancient charity school in Ludlow, called the blue coat school, which has formed the basis of a national school. It has been stated that 20*l.* a year should be secured to the trustees of this charity school, out of the tolls of the market, as forming part of Mr. Tomlyne's charity. The annual sum of 20*l.* was paid to the charity school till the 18th. of October, 1761, from which time various arrears of the Annuity accrued, amounting in 1806 to the sum of £458. This balance was expended in the purchase of a school house, in 1815. The purchase money of this house, with the charges of repairing and fitting it up, amounted to £600

13s. exceeding the amount of the arrears by 142*l.* 13*s.* which was paid out of the Corporation funds. From the year 1806, the annuity of 20*l.* was paid to the charity school, till its combination with the national school; since which time it has been paid to the treasurer of the national school, to which establishment all the funds of the old school have been transferred. The interest of the bonds, amounting to 9*l.* 10*s.* per annum, has not been paid, but is retained by the Corporation in liquidation of the debt incurred on the school house. The interest thus retained amounted in October 1819 to 114*l.* which reduced the debt to 21*l.* 13*s.* This house is now used for the female department of the national school, the boy's school being kept over the market cross.

Of the origin of the old school no vestige can be discovered; the children of that institution were clothed; and accordingly clothing to the amount of 27*l.* a year is given to the children in the national school, chosen by the subscribers in rotation. These children are also put out apprentice, with a premium of 3*l.*

THE PALMER'S GUILD.

From the preceding recital it will appear that Ludlow is distinguished above most other places of equal extent, by the number of its charitable establishments and donations for the relief of the

poor ; and as the most important of these have been derived from the Palmer's Guild, it is to be regretted that so little is known respecting that ancient fraternity. The terms Palmer and Pilgrim are by some accounted synonymous ; it is evident however that in old authors the latter is of general, and the former of particular application ; so Chaucer, speaking generally of those who travel to visit the shrines of Saints,—

“At night was come into that hostelrie
Wel nine and twenty in a compagnie
Of sondry folk, by aventure yfalle
In felawship, and Pilgrimes were they alle
That toward Canterbury wolden ride.”

Those who travel into far distant countries seem to be denominated by the same author “Palmeres,”—

“Than longen folk to gon on pilgrimages,
And Palmeres for to seken strange strandes,
To serve halwes couthe in sondry londes.”

Modern writers have embellished their works by striking delineations of the Palmer Pilgrim ;—

“Here is a holy Palmer come,
From Salem first, and last from Rome :
One that hath kissed the blessed tomb,
And visited each holy shrine
In Araby or Palestine ;
On hills of Armenie hath been
Where Noah's Ark may yet be seen ;
By that Red Sea too hath he trod,
Which parted at the prophet's rod ;
In Sinai's wilderness he saw
The mount where Israel heard the Law,
Mid thunder dint, and flashing levin,
And shadows, mists, and darkness given.
To stout Saint George of Norwich merry,

Saint Thomas too of Canterbury,
Cuthbert of Durham, and Saint Bede,
For his sins' pardon hath he prayed."

Peculiar insignia and the habit of this species of Pilgrim are also described :—

"The summon'd Palmer came in place,
His sable cowl o'erhung his face ;
In his black mantle was he clad,
With Peter's keys in cloth of red
On his broad shoulders wrought ;
The scallop shell his cap did deck ;
The crucifix around his neck
Was from Loretto brought ;
His sandals were with travel tore,
Staff, budget, bottle, scrip he wore ;
The faded Palm-branch in his hand
Shew'd Pilgrim from the Holy Land."

Whoever examines the figures in the window of St. John's Chapel, will immediately identify them with this description.

The word Guild was formerly used in the same sense as we now apply the terms club, association, company, &c. with the included idea of incorporation; so that a society of this kind was for the benefit of the whole, with a common seal, and power to buy and sell and to accumulate property. Etymologists derive the word from the Saxon verb *Guildan*, to pay; each individual contributing or paying his proportionate share for the support of the institution. The term is yet in use in the royal Burghs of Scotland to denote a company of Merchants.

If it be true that the Palmers, reputed to have brought the ring from Jerusalem, were men

of Ludlow, it thence follows that there existed here a town a considerable time before the Conquest; that the ancient fraternity of this "goodly Guild," whose riches "the township did uphold," originally established themselves in a remote period of antiquity; and having survived the general destruction of the old religious institutions of the country, yielded at length to their fate: the society quietly submitting to its own dissolution in the reign of Edward VI. leaving in the noble building of Ludlow Church a durable and splendid monument of its munificence; and whose members bequeathing the whole of their extensive Guild possessions to their native place, entitled themselves to the grateful remembrance of posterity in all succeeding ages.

ST. MARY WHITE FRIARS.

Following the town wall, which supports the north side of the Churchyard, we enter Corve Street where Corve Gate used to stand. Linney lane, passing from the gatestead of that name, joins this street near the bottom, with which, and a portion of the wall, it circumscribes a considerable piece of meadow and garden ground, supposed to have been formerly occupied by the house and contiguous possessions of St. Mary White Friars.

From what is recorded respecting this Friary, or Priory, we are led to form a high opinion of

its riches and importance; it was however so completely demolished by King Harry's reformers, that in succeeding times its name only has been remembered.

Leland informs us that this "College, or Fryery, was a fayre and costlie thinge, and stooode without Corve Gate by north, almost at the end of that suburb;" and that "one Ludlowe, a Knight, Lord of Stoke Castle, or Pyle, towards Bishop's Castle, was original founder of it." He adds, "Vernon, an heir, is now owner of Stoke, and of late was taken founder of this House." That is to say, Vernon as heir of the house which he represented, was, in right of that heirship, the founder, or more properly the patron, of this establishment at the time of its dissolution.

According to Speed, "this House was founded in the year 1349, the 24th of Edward III. by Sir Laurence de Ludlowe, Knight." Stukely, who wrote about the year 1720, says "there was a rich Priory out of the town on the north side, small ruins now to be seen, excepting a little adjoining church, once belonging to it; about the same place an arched gateway went across the street, but now demolished."

The "church" above-mentioned was the chapel of St. Leonard, purchased by W. Foxe, Esq. of Bromfield, for the use of the Almshouse established here in the year 1590.

The Almshouse has however survived its cha-

pel, and according to the will of its founder, is contributary to the maintenance of four poor and impotent persons; two from the parish of Bromfield, and two from Ludlow. According to the provisions of Mr. Foxe's will, the Chapel was to have service performed in it on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays every week, and on certain other days occasionally. The lands and tenements from which the funds of this charity arose were situated in Worcester, Ludlow, Ludford, and Ashford Bowdler.

In 1771 the trust of Foxe's charity was assigned over to the Corporation of Ludlow; in 1773 the chapel of St. Leonard was unroofed; in 1787 the walls were pulled down; and in 1789 the Corporation let out the ground on which the chapel stood, with the chapel-yard, to one of their own body on a lease of 99 years. The Almshouse is kept in good repair by the Corporation, who pay to each inmate 1s. 6d. weekly. Besides which payments, the alms-people receive each 3s. 2d. a year from Mrs. Susan Gay's charity. The present income of the charity consists of,—

	£	s.	d.
The rent of the chapel ground	- - -	1	15
Rents of houses in Worcester	- - -	11	9
Money paid by Mr. Meyricke out of four houses in Dinham	- - -	13	4
Money paid by the Hon. R. H. Clive out of lands called the Chapel Leasowes -	16	0	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14	18	10

The sums paid annually by the Corporation.—

Four Aimspeople at 1s. 6d. per week	-	15	12	0
To the Town Renter	-	-	1	7
				0

16 19 0

Exceeding the income by £2 5s. 2d.

Near the bottom of Corve street is a Chapel belonging to Protestant Dissenters of the kind denominated Independents. The original institution of this society seems to have been between the years 1731 and 1738; and judging from the circumstances of the case, it may reasonably be inferred that its advancement from a private meeting of about twenty persons to a number capable of supporting an officiating minister, was in no small degree owing to the injustice of persecution, which not only enlivens zeal, but in a thousand instances creates it; kindling a fire which burns in the breasts of the sufferers and their posterity for many generations.

On Sunday March 21, in the year 1731, somewhat more than twenty persons met together in the house of Mrs. Jones, in High Street Ludlow, for the purpose of religious worship; which had scarcely commenced when a mob collected, who furiously attacked the house and threw stones through the windows, to the great terror and danger of the persons within: on which Mrs. Jones, Peter Griffin, and James Wynde went to the High Bailiff, Mr. Henry Davies, to request

his assistance. But he, instead of helping, charged them with the riot, threatening to prosecute them to the utmost rigour of the law, notwithstanding Mrs. Jones and her friends produced a licence for religious worship in her house, signed by fourteen Justices of the Peace. The mob hearing how matters stood, returned to the charge, and broke every window in the house. Mrs. Jones and her friends were now ordered before the Bailiffs, and a Justice of the Peace, who informed them that they stood fined in £20 and bound to appear at the next Quarter Sessions. In the mean time, after urgent and repeated solicitations, the riot Act was read, and towards evening the mob dispersed. A narrative of this case having been presented to the London Committee of Dissenting Ministers, the celebrated Dr. Samuel Chandler, who was one of that body at the time, advocated the cause of the sufferers, and by a legal process compelled the Ludlow Magistrates to make ample compensation. In the preface to a narrative of this transaction, published by Mrs. Mary Marlowe, it is stated that "it is well known to several yet living (in 1772) that the gentlemen, who by their offices and stations should have suppressed the mob, were subpoenaed to London, and there fined, reprimanded, and brought to beg pardon on their knees. Yet the good people generously forgave the fine, and required no more than to have the damages re-

paired and charges defrayed, as they only desired peace and quietness."

CORVE BRIDGE.

Corve River, which gives denomination to this Street, passes under a handsome stone bridge at the bottom of it. This bridge was built by the Corporation in 1787, the foundation laid with stones from the chapel of St. Leonard.

A little above Corve Gate is an antique building known by the name of the Feathers Inn, which has formerly been an elegant mansion. In the mantle piece of one of the front rooms well preserved specimens of carved work remain, from which the traditional account of its having belonged to one of the Justices of the Court of the Marches is sufficiently confirmed; and the initials I. R. over the royal arms, point out the time of James I.

At the top of Corve Street there is an area or square of considerable dimensions. This was formerly an open place, but is now encumbered with buildings. From its having been the theatre of the barbarous amusement of bull-baiting, it is yet known by the name of the Bull-ring. From this place three other streets branch out in different directions.

Eastward from the Bull-ring is Goalford Tower, the common prison of the town, which has of late been much improved. On the front is the following inscription,—

This building was erected at the charge of the Corporation, MDCCCLIV, in the fourth year of King George the Third ; for the Common Prison of the town : in the place of Goalford's Tower ; an ancient Prison and Gate, by length of time become ruinous.

From the road which strikes off in an eastern direction from Goalford Gate, at the place where the range of buildings called Lower Goalford terminate, there passes a narrow lane called Friar's Lane, which joins the bottom of Old Street, at the place where Old Gate formerly stood, and where there is yet to be seen some remains of the Gateway. This street comes in a direct line southward from the Bull-ring ; and there are three houses on the eastern side of the lane below it paying a chief rent to the manor of Holgate, hence it has received the name of Holgate Fee. Behind Old Street there is a suite of gardens, occupying a triangular piece of ground, bounded on one side by Lower Goalford, and on the other by Friar's Lane. On this inclosure was situated the religious establishment for Augustine Friars, or Friars Eremites. The founder of this Friary is not known. Edmund de Pontibus, that is Bridgeman, was a benefactor. The first religious house of this order established in England was Woda House, near Cleobury.

Passing along the road which leaves the town at the bottom of Holgate Fee, we come to a small lump of earth and stones which marks the boundary of the parish. The name of the

"Weeping Cross," yet retained by this land mark, serves to preserve the traditional record of a Cross, and indicates the probability that not far distant from it, there may in ancient times have been a monkish cell or anchorite. It is generally believed that the *Achwynfan*, or stone of lamentation, was peculiar to the ancient Britons, and erected by them sometime previous to the mission of St. Augustine. Erections of this denomination consisted of one solid stone upwards of twelve feet high, with a rounded head, on which was the figure of a cross ornamented with singular sculptures. Beside these sacred pillars the weeping penitent was conducted to confess his sins to the officiating priest.

Adjoining to Old Gate is the Workhouse, with a small prison or cell attached to it, called the House of Correction, for securing vagrants and other petty delinquents. The original institution of this parochial establishment was by an individual of the name of Thomas Lane, of Ludlow, who had in early life been a domestic servant in the Charlton family, and who by will, dated 20th. Nov. 1674, bequeathed the greater part of his estate to Sir Job Charlton, and two others, to be by them disposed of as he should appoint, or, in default of such appointment, to such charitable use as they judged best.

From the will of Sir Job Charlton, the last survivor of these trustees, dated Dec. 6th. 1691,

it appears that the money derived from this bequest had been employed in repairing and furnishing an old house, which had been granted to the trustees by the town of Ludlow, and in purchasing certain lands in Middleton, called the Measles, of the annual value of about £30; and by his said will, Sir Job desires his son Francis to take care that the charitable fund of his grateful servant Thomas Lane be employed to maintain a Workhouse and House of Correction, for the benefit of the poor of Ludlow and the neighbouring villages (which it appears he had already established in the old house above-mentioned); and he directs that the rents and profits of the lands at Middleton, and whatever else should arise from the property bequeathed, should go for the maintenance of the master of the said Workhouse, and for keeping it in repair; and that his right heirs, or in default thereof, the Rector of Ludlow, the Curate of Ludford, and the chief Magistrate of Ludlow, should nominate one of the inhabitants of Ludlow to be master of the said Workhouse. Under the residuary clause of Thomas Lane's will, a reversion passed to the use of this charity of certain premises granted to his widow during her life. These consisted of a house in Broad Street now let to Mr. W. Smith for £20 a year; and also a garden near Brand Lane, a meadow between Mill Street mills and Ludford Bridge, and a

meadow in the township of Halton ; these last-mentioned premises together with the lands in Middleton were exchanged with Sir Charles William Rouse Boughton, Bart. for some meadow and pasture lands called East Fields and Partners, in the Parish of Stanton Lacy, let for £56 a year in 1790 ; these lands are now let from year to year to Benjamin Flounders, Esq. at a rent of £100. There was in 1820, in the hands of E. L. Charlton, Esq. of Ludford, the sum of £216 8s. 3d. belonging to this charity, being the amount of a balance due in 1816, arising from the savings of income. This sum is destined by Mr. Charlton to the erection of a new House of Correction, the present one, a single small apartment at the back of the Workhouse, being totally unfit for the purpose : it has also been proposed to build a House of Correction in the Jail Yard, at the joint charges of the Corporation and this charity.

The income of the charity, amounting now to £120 a year, was in 1818 applied as follows,—

	£	s.	d.
Governor's Salary	20	0	0
Repairs	24	8	8
Raw materials and charges for Weaving & Dying	45	5	6
Taxes	7	16	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	97	10	2

leaving a surplus of income (which in 1818 was £114, the rent of the house in Broad Street being only £14) of £16 9s. 10d. and in 1816 there re-

mained in the hands of the Receiver a surplus of £14 9s. exclusive of the sum of £216 18s. 3d. paid in that year to Mr. Charlton.

The Governor is appointed by Mr. Charlton, and receives from the parish an additional salary of £20 per annum.

The expense of maintaining the poor in the house is defrayed by the parish, and the conduct of the establishment is entirely under the management of the Overseers.

The raw materials furnished to be worked up are flax and hemp, and wool for spinning and knitting stockings, and leather for making shoes. The materials for the Weaver, are made into cloth for the use of the house.

The clothes thus made are never sold, but are entirely consumed in the house, except in some few instances where poor persons, whom it has been necessary to clothe, have left the house in search of work, taking their clothes with them; and in some yet fewer instances, where poor persons, whom it has been necessary to clothe, have had clothes out of the house. This when done is by order of the Overseers.

From the Workhouse the narrow lane, called Frog Lane, conducts us to the bottom of Broad Street. The foundation of the town wall may be traced here, and the fosse has been converted into garden ground.

The arched passage of Broad Gate remains

entire; from which lower Broad Street conducts us to Ludford Bridge, near which to the left is a field called St. John's Close, indicating the place where St. John's College formerly stood. In the catalogue of suppressed religious houses, neither the time of the foundation of this College, nor the founder's name are to be found; but it is stated in the *Monasticon*, that "St. John Baptist's Hospital founded by Peter Undergot, near the river of Teme water, for a master and religious brothers, was endowed by him with several lands, and the brothers after his death authorised to chuse their own masters for ever, without any obstruction; and the said masters and brothers to admit such as they should think fit into their brotherhood, and to receive the poor and infirm, and to do all such other things as should become religious men."

Perfectly consistent with this account is that of Leland, if we consider Jordan de Ludford to have been the descendant or heir of Undergot, he says "there was formerly on the north side of the bridge a Church of St. John, standing without Broad Gate, which had a College, with a Dean and Fellows, of the foundation of Jordan de Ludford." The historical accounts of Walter Lacy and Gilbert his son as benefactors, and of Peter Undergot as patron or founder of this college, mark out distinct periods of antiquity, approaching to, and almost coeval with the con-

quest; and as long as the name shall remain which this religious foundation has given to the inclosure on which it stood, the traditional record of its former existence will not be forgotten.

The well built stone Bridge is supposed to have been erected by the Corporation, but at what time is not known: the river here parts the two counties of Salop and Hereford.

Near the top of lower Broad Street is a Chapel, or Meeting House, belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists, built in the year 1800, and Service first performed there the 18th. day of August in the same year.



Broad Gate.

The stranger who enters Ludlow through Broad Gate will see the town in an advantageous

point of view; the Gateway itself is an interesting object, and upper Broad Street is spacious and well built.

From Broad Gate, Barnaby Lane passes into the bottom of Mill Street; it receives this name from an ancient religious foundation called Barnaby House, famous in the age of pilgrimages as the temporary resting place of the numerous devotees passing through Ludlow on their way to the holy well of St. Winefred, in North Wales.*

"The age of pilgrimages was that in which the Romish superstition had attained its greatest power over the understandings and consciences of men; at which time nothing was held in higher estimation than Saints and Miracles. The virgin daughter of the noble The with lived in a remote period of antiquity; her great beauty excited desire in the breast of Prince Cradoc, which he attempted to gratify by the violation of her person; and he cut off her head with his sword, because he was not allowed to accomplish his wicked purpose. But the most famous St. Beuno, finding the unfortunate virgin in this predicament, snatched up the head and joined it to the body, with which to the admiration of all present it perfectly united, leaving a white ring on the neck at the place of junction. Winefred survived this occurrence many years; and at Gwytherin, in Wales, four stones yet mark the place of her grave. Where her head fell a spring of pure water suddenly arose, and a well was formed which has been famed, even in our times, for the cure of diseases. On the bottom of this well the red lichen gives the appearance of spots of blood; and its sides are covered with sweet scented moss. Ages after the death of this Saint, the pious people of Shrewsbury conspired to steal away her bones, and there is an ancient manuscript still preserved in that town witnessing their miraculous efficacy, from which the following is extracted. "In the towne of Shrewsbury setan thre men togedur; and as they set on talkynge an Attarcoppe (*a spider*) cum owt of the woux (*wads*) and bote hem by the nekkus alle thre, and thowz hit greyd hem at that tyme but lyttille, sone asturhit roneoied and so swalle her (*ther*) throtus and forset her breytis, that two of hem wexen deed. And the thrydde was so nyd deed, that he made his testament and made hym redy in alle wyse, for he hoped nowste but only deatle. Then as he lay in his turment, he thowzt on Sent Wenefreda and of her myraculus. And so as he myzte, he bad his moder zo thyder, and offer a candule to the shryne, and bryng hym of the water that her boues were washon yn, and so acha dyd. And when he had this water he made waseche his sore ther with; and when he had done so, he felde that he amended: and then he made a woue to Sente Wenefreda, that giff he myzte have lyffe and heile, he wold make an ymage of sylvor and offur to her." 'he remainer says he did so, "and be cum her servant ever while he lyfyd after."

Near Barnaby House there formerly stood a Chapel dedicated to St. Mary of the Vale, on the site of which a Silk Factory was some time ago erected, which is now converted into a Wool Warehouse. This vicinity has received the name of Merry Vale, derived from the familiar epithet of Mary Vale, applied to the Chapel.

Mill Gate was at the end of Barnaby Lane, and Mill Street, like Broad Street, rises in a northern direction up a considerably elevated ascent, many of the buildings on each side of which are suited to the liberal dimensions and elegant appearance of this street. A little above Mill Gate to the right is the Free Grammar School, the original foundation of which is not known.

The school premises comprise two houses in which the two masters reside, and the school room and bed rooms over it. Some years ago the enlargement and repairs of the premises cost nearly £700, and the head master's house is now sufficiently large to accommodate thirty boarders. The masters live free of rent and parochial rates, but pay the King's taxes. They are allowed to take boarders without restriction.

All children who apply, and are able to read decently, residing in the town, are immediately admitted. The scholars are taught Latin and Greek and read English, gratis. The terms for writing and arithmetic are three guineas per annum.

Four boys of this school receive a benefaction

of £5 each, by the year, under the will of Dr. Langford; these four boys to be nominated by the Bailiffs, "out of such poor and towardlie for learning as are born in the town of Ludlow;" to be nine years of age and to continue until sixteen, and no longer. These boys wear black gowns on Sundays, when they go to church, and are called Langfordian boys.

This school is also entitled to two exhibitions to Baliol College, Oxford, worth £35 a year, upon the endowment of the Rev. Richard Greaves in the year 1704, the trusts of which are vested in the College.

The annual expenditure of this school is as follows:—

	£	s	d
Salary of the Head Master	100	0	0
Ditto of the Under Master	60	0	0
Average of Repairs	15	0	0
Poor and Parish Rates	10	0	0
	<hr/>		
	185	0	0

Opposite the school is an old building, formerly a distillery, now converted into a

THEATRE,

which is occasionally occupied by the Cheltenham Company of Actors, especially during the Races. Toward the top of this street is the

GUILDFALL,

an elegant modern building erected at the expense of the Corporation, in the year 1768, on the site of the old building of that name, originally belonging to the Palmer's Guild.

The suburbs below Mill Gate receive the name of lower Mill Street, from which place distinct traces of the town wall are to be seen almost to the Castle Bridge; this is a plain substantial building of three arches, the first stone of which was laid by the Hon. R. H. Clive, on the 12th. September 1823. The road from this bridge leads to Dinham Gate: in 1786 this Gateway remained entire, and many persons now living remember the chapel approached by a flight of steps to the right on entering the town here. We might have been induced to believe this the chapel built by Roger Mortimer in the year 1323, had it not been distinctly recorded to have stood within the outer court of the Castle, and to have been contiguous to the court-house.

The lane leading from Dinham Gate to the bottom of Mill Street is called Camp Lane, from the grounds below it having been used by the soldiery. Immediately under the south wall of the Castle is a handsome brick built mansion, the occasional residence of the Clive family. This building receives the name of

DINHAM HOUSE,

and the neighbourhood that of Dinham from the original British name of Dinan, indicating the existence of a palace or princely residence, which doubtless stood here in the British era of Ludlow.

Toward the close of the French revolutionary war, Lucien Buonaparte being detained a pris-

ner in England, was conducted to Ludlow, and Dinharn House selected for his residence. This circumstance, though in itself of trifling importance, yet as relating to a man whose name is connected with the history of the most extraordinary occurrences of the age, ought not to be passed over in silence. We refer to history for a detail of transactions leading to his seizure and detention, but it may not be improper here to remark that Ludlow, which has in former times been honoured as the resort of crowned heads, was in this instance the abode of a man who had at least the merit of having refused a crown, which was to be purchased by usurpation and held by tyranny. Lucien Buonaparte and family left Ludlow on Sunday June 30, 1811.



The Market House.

Out of Dinharn we pass into Castle Street, in

which is a plain brick building called the Market House, containing large and convenient rooms used for meetings of the Corporation, Bailiff's Balls, Subscription Assemblies, &c. Beneath is an open space for the corn market. Attached to this building are two reservoirs, to one of which water is raised from the river by machinery at the bottom of lower Mill Street ; the other receives spring water from a place called the Fountain, under Whitcliff Coppice.

Near the top of this street is a house formerly castellated ; tradition says it belonged to the Castle, and was connected with it by a covered way, the entrance to which is supposed to have been an arched vault yet remaining.

Raven Lane passes from beside the Market House into the cross lane called Bell Lane, which connects Mill Street and Broad Street ; in a line with which is Brand Lane, passing from Broad Street into Old Street. Near the end of this lane is the house appropriated to the use of the girls belonging to the National School, which was opened on the 11th. of February, 1814. The school room is lofty and spacious, measuring in length upwards of 28 feet, and 15 in breadth ; the number of scholars is about 80. The school room for the boys belonging to this institution is over the Market Cross, at the top of Broad Street, and is that formerly occupied by the Blue Coat School ; it measures in length 62

feet 5 inches, in breadth 28 feet 8 inches, and in height 11 feet. The number of schelars taught is about 200. The National School was established on the 3rd. of February, 1813. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions, by annual collections made in the church, and by various legacies, together with the income arising from the funds of the Blue Coat School.

The annual income of this establishment will vary according to circumstances, but perhaps the difference will not be very material; the following is an abstract of the account for the year 1825.

	£	s	d.
Receipts	-	-	197 10 1
Payments	-	-	167 7 0

leaving a balance in favour of the charity of £30 3s. 1d.



The Market Cross.

The Market Cross is a modern erection, chiefly occupied by market women who expose for sale butter and other productions of the farm; it is built of sand stone of an excellent quality, from the Clee Hill. In the cupola of this elegant building is a bell, formerly belonging to the Chapel of St. Leonard, on which is the following inscription,—“All Praye and Glory to God for evermore. 1684.”

Eastward from the top of Broad Street is King Street, leading to the Bull-ring; and the opposite street, which conducts us to the Market House, is called High Street.

Here our circuit of the town ends; in the course

of which every thing remarkable has been noticed that can be supposed to interest the passing traveller, or the more attentive observer of the relics of former ages. Except the Castle and the Friary of St. Mary, the more ancient buildings cannot be distinctly traced back to their origin; though it is sufficiently evident that some of them were of great antiquity. It is well known that the oldest remains of christian institutions in this country are found in Wales, and in other parts inhabited by the Britons previous to the predominancy of the Saxon power; which proves that Christianity was introduced into this island long before the arrival of the first catholic missionary. "The Britons," says an old writer, "who were the aborigines of this island, were by a special instinct much devoted to the contemplation of heavenly things; for the ancient Druids, who were the first divines or professors of religion, (who in lieu of monasteries and colleges, were used to retire into woods and solitary places to study the works of God and nature) were renowned far and near; and as Cæsar and Tacitus write, the Gauls were used to come over to be instructed by them. Cassibelan, whom Cæsar and Tacitus speak of as King of Britain on its first discovery, was also the first christian King, for in his time it pleased the Father of Lights to display the early beams of christianity in this island; as Gregory the 16th. writes, 'no sooner

did the Roman Eagle fly over hither, but the standard of the Cross was inarborated and set up."

It was the uniform practice of the Saxon invaders to substitute for the old names of places new ones of their own; but in all instances where both are found, we may be fully certain that the Britons were the original occupiers; and from the meaning of those names may be inferred the nature of the institutions or public buildings to which they belonged. The British name for this town, which has a distinct meaning different from that of its Saxon name of Ludlow, proves beyond a doubt the original occupation of this place by the Britons, and the nature of their establishment here.

It is evident that religious establishments subsisting through a succession of many ages, gradually changed to suit the fashions of the times; and the simple form of an incorporated brotherhood, which was most consistent with christianity in its original purity, by degrees assumed a more showy exterior. Hence we find that the religious society of St. John the Baptist had degenerated at the time of its dissolution, and possessed a dean and fellows. It is also highly probable that the Palmer's Guild originated from an ancient British foundation of a very different character from what it had acquired at a later period.

The civil regulations of our ancestors are in many instances not less involved in obscurity

than those of a religious kind, for though we frequently recognise in numerous words and phrases yet retained in our law language, the tyrannous institutions and customs of the Conqueror, as well as the more generous and wise usages of the noble Alfred, yet from these remaining fragments distinct ideas of the manner in which their administration was conducted are not easily to be collected.

GOVERNMENT.

The town of Ludlow had, previous to its first charter given by the fourth Edward, been governed as at present by the twelve and twenty-five, through a period defective in historical records, and extending far beyond human recollection. Hence an enquiry into the origin of its former and present civil constitution would be altogether fruitless. The phrase Free Burgh is understood to be synonymous with the Roman appellation of municipal, or free city; both of them denoting, in reference to the place to which they were applied, an exemption from the immediate jurisdiction of any foreign power. The system sanctioned by Edward IV. for the Government of Ludlow was nearly the same as it had previously enjoyed: the citizens were too much attached to their ancient constitution to desire any alteration, and the monarch's gratitude for the important services he had received in his greatest difficulties would not allow him to op-

pose their wishes. This charter was renewed, and in some particulars altered, during the succeeding reigns from Edward IV. to Charles II. but in the time of William and Mary, in the year 1690, its original form was restored in conformity to the wishes of the principal inhabitants, who petitioned Parliament for that purpose.

Ludlow is governed by a Recorder, two Bailiffs, two Justices, twelve Aldermen, twenty-five Common Council men, Town Clerk, chief Constable, Coroner, and several other inferior officers.

In the process of forming this civil establishment, thirty-seven individuals are first selected from among the Burgesses of the town. Out of these twelve are chosen as Aldermen, or principal Burgesses, and one of this number is elected High Bailiff. The remaining twenty-five are the Common Council, from which the Low Bailiff is chosen. The privilege of burghership is inherited by the sons of Burgesses, and those who marry their daughters are entitled also to be admitted into this body; for which purpose they are required to petition according to the prescribed form, given in the bye law made in the year 1683.

The annual election of the Bailiffs is on the 13th of October, and they enter upon their offices on the 28th of the same month, on which occasion a public dinner is provided, which is always numerously attended by the principal in-

habitants of the town, and by the neighbouring nobility and gentry. A ball is afterwards given, and the whole of these entertainments are on a liberal scale, splendid and expensive, far above any thing of the kind in this part of the country.

The Quarter Sessions are held here before the Recorder, the High Bailiff, and the Justices of the town, on Thursday after Epiphany week, Thursday after Easter week, Thursday after Thomas a'Becket week, and Thursday after the 14th of October. This court has in former times passed sentence of death, but the Recorders of late years, not being barristers, all persons liable to be tried for capital offences are removed by *Habeas Corpus* to the county jail.

A Court of Record is held every Tuesday, the Recorder and Bailiffs presiding as judges.

Ludlow was authorised to send two Representatives to Parliament, by King Edward IV. in the year 1461, the first of his reign; which privilege it appears ever since to have enjoyed. The right of electing is understood to be in all the resident Burgesses, and the Bailiffs are the returning officers.

CUSTOMS.

Among the customs peculiar to this town, that of the Rope Pulling is not the least extraordinary. On Shrove Tuesday the Corporation provide a Rope three inches in circumference and

in length thirty-six yards, which is given out at one of the windows of the Market House as the clock strikes four ; when a large body of the inhabitants divided into two parties, one contending for Castle Street and Broad Street Wards, and the other for Old Street and Corve Street Wards, commence an arduous struggle ; and as soon as either party gains the victory by pulling the Rope beyond the prescribed limits, the pulling ceases ; which is however renewed by a second, and sometimes by a third contest ; the Rope being purchased by subscription from the victorious party and given out again. Without doubt this singular custom is symbolical of some remarkable event, and a remnant of that ancient language of visible signs, which, says a celebrated writer, "imperfectly supplies the want of letters, to perpetuate the remembrance of public or private transactions." The sign in this instance has survived the remembrance of the occurrence it was designed to represent, and remains a profound mystery. It has been insinuated that the real occasion of this custom is known to the Corporation, but that for some reason or other they are tenacious of the secret. An obscure tradition attributes it to circumstances arising out of the siege of Ludlow by Henry VI. when two parties arose within the town, one supporting the pretensions of the Duke of York, and the other wishing to give admittance to the King ;

one of the Bailiffs is said to have headed the latter party. History relates that in this contest many lives were lost, and that the Bailiff, heading his party in an attempt to open Dinham Gate fell a victim there. If this custom was intended to represent the scene of civil strife referred to, we will leave our readers to judge whether or not it be an apt emblem of it.

In common with other ancient places, Ludlow yet preserves the custom of walking over the limits of the parish once a year; this procession is on the Wednesday before Holy Thursday; on which day the boys of the different schools, attended by one of the Clergy, proceed from the Church to a place near Corve Bridge where a cross formerly stood; here the Epistle of the preceding Sunday is read; from whence passing to the Weeping Cross, the boys again kneel down and the Gospel for the same day is read by the Clergyman, after which the ceremony is completed at the Guildhall.

MERCIAN LODGE.

The ancient society of Free Masons have a Lodge at the Angel Inn, where they usually meet monthly on the Tuesday preceding the full moon. This Lodge was brought out of Herefordshire, where it used to be distinguished by the appellation "Silurian;" on its removal here it received the name of the "Mercian Lodge."

The Ludlow Dispensary was established in

1780, for supplying medical assistance to the diseased poor, and continues to be of extensive utility. It is however suggested that the enlargement of the subscription to allow the means of supporting a well qualified Dispenser to attend regularly (as in Worcester, Tewkesbury, &c.) would greatly increase the efficiency of this institution. Public establishments of this kind are not only useful as charities, but as schools for the improvement of medical science, which under the direction of presiding physicians and surgeons, supply daily means of improvement to junior students.*

There has also been established here a Society for the relief of Lying-in Women, in indigent circumstances. The persons relieved are poor men's wives, of reputable character, to whom sheets, napkins, bedgowns, caps, and various other necessary articles are supplied during the time of their confinement, to be returned on their recovery. Pecuniary relief is also given in some instances. A committee of twelve ladies conduct the business of this Society. Each Subscriber is allowed to recommend one woman for

* Some of the numerous discoveries in philosophy and the arts, by which the present age is distinguished, have been successfully applied to the improvement of public medical institutions; among which may be instanced Dr. Dods' "Athenaeum of Medicine" at Worcester, in which the modern improvements derived from galvanism, electricity, pneumatic chemistry, &c. with the application of sudatory, medicated, cold, warm, hot, dry air, and gas baths, in all their varieties are introduced and rendered practically useful, by an elegant and convenient apparatus for each, fitted up at a great expense.

the Annual Subscription of 10s. 6d. This very excellent Charity is well supported.

There are a considerable number of respectable Benefit Societies in the town, whose meetings are held at the Red Lion, Sun, George, Golden Cross, Barley Mow, and the Feathers.

Several companies yet remain of the incorporated tradesmen, namely, that of the Stitchmen, consisting of glovers, tailors, breeches-makers, stay-makers, &c. the Hammer-men, blacksmiths, braziers, masons, &c. the Leather-men, tanners, curriers, shoe-makers, &c. these have yet annual feasts which they call "Halls" from their having been formerly held in the Guildhall.

The annual Races held here are generally in the month of July and consist of two days sport. In the Morning of the first day are run for,—

The LUDFORD STAKES of Ten Guineas each, and a STAKES of Ten Guineas each for three years old Colts.

And in the Evening,—

A MAJDEN PLATE of £50, given by the Members for the Town.

In the Morning of the second day are run for,—

The ALL-AGED STAKES of Ten Guineas each, with Twenty Pounds added by the Town; and a SWEEPSTAKES for HUNTERS of Ten Guineas each.

And in the Evening,—

A PLATE of Fifty Pounds, given by the Members; and the YEOMANRY CAVALRY STAKES of Five Guineas each, to which is added, by Viscount Clive, a Cup value Thirty Guineas.

The Races are succeeded by a Ball; and by a Public Breakfast, which is held in the inner court of the Castle.

Ludlow cannot boast of any particular manufactory on a large scale ; the greater part of the town being inhabited by genteel families, attracted probably by the healthy and pleasant situation of the place. Its chief trade is in gloves, in the manufacture of which a great number of persons of both sexes are employed. Besides this there is considerable business done in the paper-making, tanning, timber trade, and cabinet-making.

The Population of Ludlow, as taken in the years 1811 and 1821, was found to be as follows,—

	1811.		1821.
Males	1810	Males	2120
Females	2340	Females	2700
Total	<u>4150</u>	Total	<u>4820</u>
Inhabited Houses	877	Inhabited Houses	1066
Families	1105	Families	1139
Increase since 1811 . . .		670	

In conformity to the provisions of an Act of Parliament, procured for that purpose, the town of Ludlow was first paved and lighted in the year 1794, the commencement of the paving being in Castle Street on the 6th of March in that year.

The town is built on a foundation partly rocky and partly a hard dry gravel ; and the water, which on digging rises through the strata, is superior to what is usually supplied by pumps in towns. Upon evaporation this water leaves a small portion of a whitish salt on the sides and bottom of the vessel, which deliquitates on exposure to the air, and is conceived to be muriate

of lime, a substance generally found in wells contiguous to buildings.

The town being excellently supplied with water, there is little occasion to seek for springs in the neighbourhood, of which however there are several worth attention, particularly one in a field beyond Linney called the Boiling Well, another called Sugar Well near the Paper Mills, and the far famed well of St. Julian in Ludford.

WALKS AND RIDES.

The vicinity of Ludlow supplies numerous pleasant walks and rides in every direction, being in its immediate, as well as more distant surrounding scenery, equal or perhaps superior to any inland town in the kingdom. Nearest the town, the gravel walks round the Castle deserve our first notice, from whence passing over Castle bridge and ascending Whitcliff Hill we find ourselves on an elevation, which gratifies the lover of rural, woodland, and cultivated scenes, by affording a pleasing and ever varying prospect; also the retired walk called Hackluyt's Close, under a row of stately elms, behind Ludford House; that on the banks of the Teme toward the Paper Mills, and numerous others equally interesting might be enumerated.

Among the rides in this vicinity, one is remarkably pleasing, and has been particularly noticed by judicious travellers: it passes near Oakley Park, crossing the Teme by Downton

Castle, and from thence through the extensive woods along the new road to Ludlow; the whole comprehending not much more than ten miles, yet affording such a charming variety of rich scenery and rural beauty, as can very seldom be surpassed by the combined efforts of nature and art.

RIVERS.

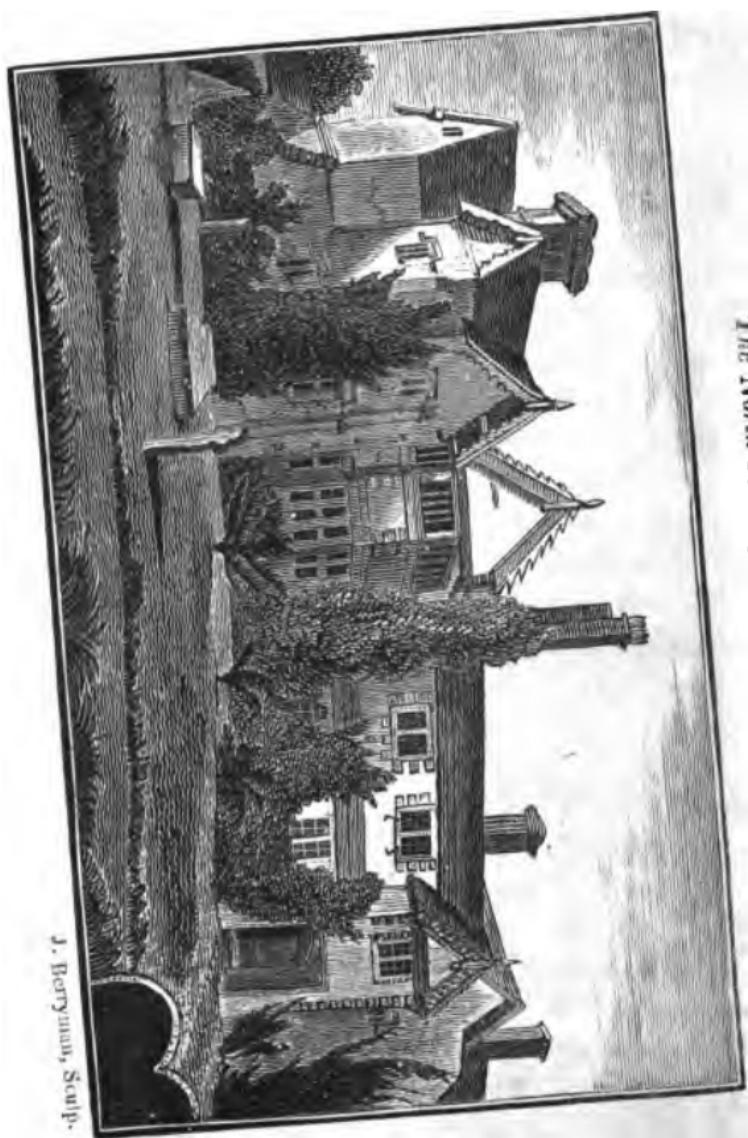
The river Teme, originating in the county of Radnor, and taking its course by Knighton, through the vale of Brampton Bryan, by Downton Castle and Oakley Park, and joining the Corve, passes by Ludlow, embracing its western and southern sides. In this river are found Pike, Trout, Greylings, Perch, Eels, and various other kinds of fish; and in the Corve Trout, Eels, Chub, &c.

The Corve in its course by the bottom of Corve Street and Linney, turns a wheel to grind bark for the tanners, and puts in motion machinery for rope, cordage, and sacking makers, &c. and on the Teme are also several Corn Mills, a Paper Mill, and, at the foot of Ludford Bridge, a small establishment in which many persons are employed in manufacturing the useful articles of woollen cloths, flannels, blankets, yarns, &c.

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The North Front of Ludford House.



J. Gettyman, Sculp.

Gentlemen's Seats,

Villages, &c.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF LUDLOW.

AS a necessary appendage to this work, we will now endeavour to give some account of such places of note in this neighbourhood, as commonly excite attention, commencing with the Village of Ludford, which is immediately connected with the town, and which is entitled to the more notice, from being according to the charters within the ancient liberties of the Borough, and enjoying the same privileges.

LUDFORD HOUSE,

the old fashioned seat of the Charltons, is conspicuous, on a rising ground, above the village, and preserves an antique appearance, though considerably embellished by its present possessor, E. Lechmere Charlton, Esq. This gentleman is of the ancient family of the Lechmeres of Hanley Castle, in the county of Worcester; which family (as appears from Nash's History of that county) originally came out of the low countries, and served under William the Conqueror. Nicholas Lechmere, Knight, Baron of

the Exchequer in 1701, and Nicholas Lord Lechmere, Baron of Evesham, who was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and of the Privy Council of George I. were of this family, which has besides repeatedly represented the county and city of Worcester.

Edmund Lechmere, Esq. the son of Anthony, who was the elder brother of Lord Lechmere, married Elizabeth, the sister of Sir Francis Charlton, Bart. and by her had Nicholas, who on the death of his maternal uncle (Sir Francis dying without issue) came into the possession of this property, and assumed the name and arms of Charlton, which devolved on his son, the present inheritor.

This Mansion is without doubt of great antiquity, as is indicated by its approximation to the church, its interior quadrangle, and its style of masonry; particularly the parts fronting the Leominster road, and the churchyard. Even in Sir Francis's time there were nothing but casements throughout the house, and so much did some parts of the building resemble a prison, that a Scotchman passing by, when the dairy maid was looking through the window, is reported to have exclaimed, "ah ye be a bonny lassie, but I weel ken ye be there for na gude." Mention is made of a house here in the remote period of the twelfth century, but of what kind does not appear; it is conjectured to have been

a religious foundation, and vestiges of cells (in the recollection of old people) with certain mural decorations, warrant this supposition, and the presumption that it was even coeval with the erection of the Castle of Ludlow, and once perhaps partly dependent upon that ancient Baronial Palace: a religious establishment however certainly existed here, and though in no account that we have been able to meet with, can be traced any immediate connection between it and the Castle, yet in early days it was almost ever the custom to unite monastic institutions with magnificent castellated residences, as may be instances in Priories or Abbeys adjacent to Kenilworth, Warwick, Kirklees, &c.

In the time of William the Conqueror this manor made part of the possessions of Osborn the son of Richard, Lord of Richard's Castle. It was afterwards enjoyed by the family of Jordæn, who deriving his surname from the place, was called Jordæn de Ludford. This Jordæn left two daughters, whereof one died unmarried, the other married Howel Vaughan, who gave or sold the manor and its appurtenances to the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, in Ludlow.

The Hospital of St. John being seized by the Commissioners at the time of the general dissolution of religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII. this manor, as appertaining to that foundation, was also conveyed to the crown: it was

afterwards granted by Edward VI. to John Earl of Warwick; of whom it was purchased by William Foxe, and in the year 1607 it came to the Charlton family.

This family had previously enjoyed extensive possessions in the county of Salop, and were resident at Appley Castle, near Wellington. Thomas Charlton was Bishop of Hereford in the year 1327. In the year 1337 he was appointed treasurer to Edward II. and soon afterwards made Chancellor of Ireland. He died in 1343, and was buried in Hereford Cathedral, where his effigy may be seen on an altar monument under an arch in the north transept.

Lewis Charlton became Bishop of Hereford in 1361. Bale calls him Caerleon, and it has been supposed that he was born in that ancient city. This prelate before his elevation to the See had prosecuted his studies with much assiduity and success at each of the English Universities, and had been elected Chancellor of Oxford in the year 1357. He was a profound theologian, learned in mathematics, and had some knowledge of medicine. Dying A. D. 1369, he bequeathed his books to the cathedral, with £40 in money. His monument in the south-east aisle, though now much mutilated, has an interesting appearance: it is in the form of an altar, on which his effigy, mitred, is extended at full length; over the recess in which it is inclosed, is a rich fret-

work gothic canopy, much defaced, and the whole is surmounted with a highly wrought entablature; on the wall above the effigy is the following inscription,—

Ludovicus Charlton, Epis: Heref: A.D. 1320.

On the tomb are four shields, on the first of which are engraved croslets fitchee, on the second and third a lion rampant, on the fourth the arms of the See.

Sir John Charlton, born at Appley Castle in 1268, was of the bed chamber to King Edward II. and afterwards raised to the office of Chief Justice. He married Hawis Gadaru, sole daughter and heiress of Owen ap Griffith, the last Prince of Powis: her four uncles, Llewellyn, John Griffith, Vaughan, and David, detained her inheritance from her, whereupon Hawis complained to King Edward, who appointed Sir John to marry her creating him in her right Baron of Powis: and being assisted with the King's forces, he took three of her uncles prisoners, about 1320, and brought the fourth to composition, and finally recovered all his wife's estate, procuring also the lands of her uncles, in default of their issue male, to be settled on her.*

* In a large eastern window of stained glass in St. Chad's Church at Shrewsbury, is an inscription in Norman French translated as follows:—"Pray for Monsieur John de Charlton, who caused this window to be made, and for Dame Hawis his Companion." The word "*Compaigne*" for Wife indicates royalty, to which the Lady Hawis had pretensions "*Madame sa Compaigne*" was synonymous with Queen, *çwen*, woman.

Isabel, sister to Sir John, married John Sutton, Baron Dudley, from whom the Earls of Warwick and Leicester are descended. This Barony after four generations devolved, in default of male issue, on Sir John Grey, Knight, who married the eldest daughter of Edward Charlton, fourth Lord Powis, by Eleanor daughter of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and widow of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March. But to a junior branch of this noble family did the property of Appley Castle and Whitton Court descend. Sir Robert Charlton who suffered much for his loyalty to Charles I. resided there. His son Sir Job, Chief Justice of Chester, and one of the Judges of the Common Pleas, bought Ludford, and being a gentleman remarkable for his hospitality and convivial disposition, had the honour of entertaining his sovereign, King James II. at Ludford House, in the year 1687. One David Davis, who died many years ago at the great age of 104, was a domestic in the family and waited on them. The grey headed old man towards the decline of life, enjoying ease and plenty from the bounty of his employer, was used to dwell with rapture on the noble guests at Ludford, and the true British conviviality which reigned round the large table, still remaining in the hall.

There are a few pictures at Ludford House of considerable merit. A Wouvermans, three Jacob Ruysdaels, two Bassans, and a portrait of Lord

Strafford by Sir Peter Lely are most conspicuous.

To the south of the house lies the garden, which of late has undergone extensive improvements. Towards the west is a large park, well stocked with deer, and remarkable for its fine luxuriant wood scenery: and in a line with the Leominster road, under the park wall, is a pleasant and much frequented walk called Hackluyt's Close, not far from the termination of which is a respectable farm house called Huck's Barn; only noticed on account of its having been the residence of the uncle of George Barnwell. Tradition says that in a piece of ground not far from this house, which still retains the name of Barnwell's Green, this wretched victim of seduction waited to rob and murder his friend and benefactor.

Leland, the father of English antiquaries whose writings are from actual surveys, visited Ludlow sometime between the years 1500 and 1550, and observes respecting Ludford:—"The suburbs over Teme bridge, by south, is called Ludford, and in it is a little parish church. There be three fayre arches in this bridge over Teme, and a pretty chapel upon it of St. Catherine. It is about 100 years since this stone bridge was erected. Men passed along by a ford, a little below the bridge."

Allowing for the change in appearance which modern additions and improvements would give

we may reasonably suppose that the present parish church is the same as that described in the above extract: it is a plain building and immediately contiguous to Ludford House. The chancel was built by William Foxe, and is evidently a modern addition to the church: it is the family sepulchral repository, where we find among others two or three monuments of the Foxe family, and two or three of the Charlton: Sir Job's we shall transcribe, which is in a recess above his statue, reclining in his magisterial habiliments.

Hic jacent reliquiae Honorabilis viri domini Job Charlton, Equitis et Baronettii qui Imperante Carolo Secundo Justitiarius capitallis Cestriensis fuit merito constitutas.

Quo in munere Annos magis viginti elaboravit. Senatoribus minorum gentium Prolocutor, nec non unus ex Justiciariis Domini Regis de Banco gravissimus hisce negotijs omnimode Par: quorum singula tum perspicaci ingenio tum fide pertinaci expievit. Æque in Exemplum Carolum atque Regnamentum Pius: Causam Regiam etiam afflictam adiavit. Vir eximia Pietate, Justitia promptaque Beneficentia plenus.

*Conjux Fidus,
Pater Solicitus,
Judex integerrimus.*

Obiit vicesimo quarto Maij 1697. Anno etatis sua Octogesimo Tertio Habuit promissum Piorum premium in terris nempe vitam diuturnam, in archam per Jesum Christam cœlis aeterna.

Huic in Opibus et Titulis successit Franciscus Charlton, Baronettus, filius natu maximus.

On a mural marble monument, underneath a marble bust is an inscription to the memory of Dorothy the wife of Sir Job.

LUDFORD ALMSHOUSE,

which is probably on or near the site of the house which was called St. Giles',* was founded

* St. Giles, a celebrated ascetick of the seventh century, preferred the barrenness of deserts for his abode, to exclude the temptations of indulgence: and still as his presence removed the sterility of the wil-

by Sir Job Charlton in the year 1672, for six poor and impotent persons, one of whom was to be warden, and the incorporation by indenture to bear the name or denomination of, "The warden and poor of the Hospital of Ludford." The said warden and poor, by their corporate name, to have the power to purchase and hold lands, and to sue and be sued, and to have a common seal. The founder further provided that he and his heirs should have power to nominate the warden and poor as vacancies should occur; and that in default of such heirs, the Bailiffs of Ludlow and their successors should have the nomination.

By various indentures the said Sir Job Charlton conveyed to the warden and poor of the Hospital of Ludford land and other possessions; property was also consigned to this charity by Sir Francis Charlton in 1774. Since which time

derness he retired further into its recesses. His affection for deserts made him the appropriate patron of persons afflicted with that dreadful scourge of former times, the Leprosy, who were compelled to fly as far from public resort as was consistent with their subsistence, and they therefore established themselves at the ends of towns, where churches under the patronage of this saint are usually found. St. Giles was indeed a general patron of the infirm: for having been wounded he prayed that he might never be cured; because "he knewe well that vertue sholde prouifte to hym in infirmitie." The Leprosy was introduced into Europe by the Crusades, and mention is made of Hospitals of St. Giles in the reign of Henry I. whose consort, "Molde the goode Queene," founded St. Giles' in the Fields. There appears to have been houses of this kind in Shropshire before the time of Henry II. dedicated to St. Giles "the Patron of Creeples." And in the King's charter to one of those houses it is requested that "when the brotheren come to beg alms for the behoof of their house, you (our subjects) will mercifully impart to them of your goods for the love of God, because they are poor."

other benefactions have been added by the Charlton family. It appears that though the six places are kept constantly filled, the name and distinction of warden, as head of the corporation, have long ceased to exist. The latest instance of the use of the common seal is on a lease of Saunders' meadow in 1618, and the next subsequent lease bears the seal of Sir Francis Charlton.

The "pretty chapel of St. Catherine,"* which certainly did formerly stand on Ludford Bridge, has been forgotten for many years; but the celebrated well of St. Julian is fresh in the memory of the inhabitants of the village, because the wonderful cures of diseases believed to have been miraculously performed by it, connected with the ancient superstition, are circumstances so strongly impressive, that the fame of them continues for a long series of ages. This well used to be seen and resorted to under the garden wall, near the Hospital.

SALTMORE WELL.

This is a saline spring below Ludford, on the opposite side of the river, at the foot of a hill. The rural cottage on the premises is a pleasing and picturesque object, harmonizing with the surrounding scenery which is extremely beautiful. The water of this spring is found to contain a small quantity of carbonate of iron, with a little

* This Chapel stood on the first pier towards Ludlow, and was tolerably perfect in 1722.

sulphate of magnesia, and a considerable portion of muriate of soda. In scorbutic and various other disorders, great benefit has been found to arise from the free use of this water, and in all disorders for which an aperient and corroborant medicine is required it would doubtless prove useful.

NEW BATH AT SALTMORE.

The want of convenience for bathing at Saltmore had long been lamented; because, judging from analogy, no one can doubt that it must prove equally as powerful as sea water, and applicable to the same useful purposes. On this account, we anticipate the satisfaction individuals and the public will feel, when informed that proper accommodations are now completed at the cottage for cold or warm bathing. In cutaneous affections, scrophula, chronic rheumatism, paralysis, and above all in disorders incident to young females, the greatest advantages may reasonably be expected from this bath in a warm or tepid state; and for all purposes in which the cold immersion may safely be used it deserves preference.

Passing along the Worcester road we arrive at the very pleasant villages of Ashford Bowdler and Ashford Carbonel, near each other on opposite sides of the river, and about two miles distant from Ludlow. To the right is

ASHFORD HALL,
the residence of Miss Buckley, an elegant mo-

dern building, on a rising ground, commanding extensive prospects, and embellished with surrounding plantations. There are also on this side of the river the handsome dwelling houses of Mrs. Richard Green and Mrs Jonathan Green ; on the opposite side is

ASHFORD COURT,

the seat of Charles Walker, Esq. And in this neighbourhood is also a handsome house belonging to John Downes, Esq.

Four miles further on the left is

EASTON,

the mansion of D. R. Dansey, Esq. the descendant of the ancient family of the Danseys of Brinsop, in the county of Hereford.

About two miles further, in a pleasant vale, on the banks of the Teme, is

BURFORD HOUSE,

the residence of the Honorable and Rev. G. Rushout Bowles.

BURFORD.

"Burford (says Camden) descended from Theodorick Say's posterity to Robert de Mortimer, and from his heirs to Jeffrey de Cornubia or Cornwaile, of the lineage of Richard Earl of Cornwall and King of the Alemans ; whose heirs even to our days have borne the honourable title of Barons. Burford was held of the King, to find five men for the army of Wales, and by the service of a barony."

The church is an ancient fabric, and many monuments of the Cornewall and other families of note are found within it, particularly that of Edmund Cornewall, Baron of Burford, with his portrait in his shroud painted upon a board. He was a man of extraordinary size and strength, and is represented to have been seven feet three inches in height. Habington has given his character,—“He was in mind an Emperor, from whom he descended; in wit and stile so rare, to comprise in a few words, and that so clearly, such store of matter, as I scarce ever saw to equal him, none to excel. He was mighty in body, but very comely, and exceeded in strength all men of his age; for his own delight he had a dainty touch on the lute; and of such sweet harmony in his nature, as, if ever he offended any, were he never so poor, he was not friend with himself, till he was friend with him again; he led a single life, and before his strength decayed, entered the gate of death.”

Several other monuments have been noticed, but the church is damp and they are rapidly perishing; the following ought to be preserved from oblivion:—

Here lyeth the bodie of the noble princess Elizabeth, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, own sister to king Henry 4, wife of John Holland, earl of Huntingdon, and duke of Exeter, afterwards married to Sir John Cornewayll, knight of the Garter, and Lord Fawhope. She died in the 4th year of Henry 6. A. D. 1426.

Near her, upon a wooden moveable monument, is a man in armour reclined upon his helmet,

supposed to be the husband of this Princess, but the inscription is nearly obliterated.

Two miles from Ludlow, on the western side of the high road to Leominster, is the

LODGE,

the beautiful seat of Theophilus Richard Salwey, Esq. delightfully situated on an elevated spot, skirted towards the west by some pleasant woods, and commanding an extensive and varied view over a large range of country. The many improvements made in the house, plantations, &c. by this gentleman since it has been in his possession, have considerably increased its beauty. The *façade* of the building is a fine piece of architecture, and the whole of the interior is elegantly finished.

A little further on the left side of the road is
MOOR PARK,

which, in the sixteenth century, belonged to the Lyttletons, but is now the property of John Salwey, Esq. Lord of the manor of Richard's Castle. It is in the midst of a fine undulating country, and makes, with the surrounding plantations and groves, a pleasing and picturesque object. The park contiguous to the house is, by the intermixture of various clumps of trees, a fine sheet of water, and some handsome distant prospects, rendered highly agreeable to the lover of natural landscape.

At a short distance from Moor Park is

THE HAY PARK,

the residence of Mrs. I. C. Salwey, seated on a lofty summit, amidst woods; the park is well stocked with deer.

Proceeding on the Leominster road, we come to
BATCHCOTT,

the residence of the Rev. R. F. Hallifax, Rector of Richard's Castle, a very pleasant and comfortable mansion, modernized and improved by the present possessor.

RICHARD'S CASTLE,

is about three miles from Ludlow. The town contiguous was anciently called Gayton or Boytanc. It is evident from various old records, that this was a town of considerable importance until the reign of Henry III. but it now consists only of a few farm houses. King John granted to Robert de Mortimer a charter for holding both a market and fair at this place; but both have been so long disused, that no vestige remains, except that there is yet a place called the toll-shop green, near the Castle.

"Richard's Castle," says Leland, "standeth at the top of a very worky hill, well wooded, and at the west end of the parish church there. The keep, the walls, and towers of it stand, but going to ruin. There is a poor house of timber in the Castle garth for a farmer; it belongeth now to the king, it belonged of late to the Lord Vaux, after to Pope. There is a park impaled."

This Castle was built before the Conquest, by Richard Scrope, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. At the time of the Doomsday survey it was held by Osborn Fitz-Richard, whose grandson assumed the name of Say, and was killed in Wales in the reign of Richard I. Margaret, his granddaughter and heir, married Robert de Mortimer, from whose family it also passed by an heiress, to the Talbots who possessed it till the time of Richard II. King Edward VI. granted this manor to Nicholas Bishop of Worcester, and his heirs. In the fifteenth century it was possessed by T. Bradshaw, on a long lease from the Bishop. This gentleman married the daughter of Arthur Salwey, Esq. by whom he had issue twenty children; his grandson sold the lease of the manor to Richard Salwey, Esq., in which family it still continues. Some part of the keep and walls are still remaining, yet so hidden by the luxuriant wood scenery about them, as scarcely to be discovered until they are nearly approached.

“Beneath this Castle,” says Camden, “nature, which no where disporteth itself more in shewing wonders than in waters, hath brought forth a pretty well, which is always full of little fish bones, or as some think, of small frog bones, although they be from time to time drawn quite out of it, whence it is called Bone-well.” But this is not correct, for these bones are found

generally in spring and autumn, and not at all in the winter.

Upon the declivity of the eminence near the Castle, a body of Royalists, amounting to nearly 2000, under Sir Thomas Lundesford, were defeated in the year 1645, by a force far inferior, headed by Colonel Birch.

The parish Church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and had formerly a spire, which was burnt down; it is contiguous to the Castle, and is a fine old structure, with some beautiful remnants of stained glass.

ORLETON

is a pleasant village, among orchards, five miles from Ludlow, near the Leominster road.

This manor was given by the Conqueror to Ranulph de Mortimer, whose descendant Edward IV. held it distinct from the crown lands, and had a particular seal, even after he became King, for the concerns of the Earldom of March, as appears from a charter of manumission granted to a *villeine* of this place, bearing date 20th August, 1468, the seal of which is preserved, bearing the arms of Burgh quarterly, supported by lions rampant, and surmounted by a crown, with this inscription,—

Sigillum Edwardi Quarti Dei Gra. Regis Anglie, Francie
Domini, Comitatis Sue Marchie.

After Edward's death this manor was annexed to the crown, and was granted by James I. to

George Hopton, from whom it passed through several families to the Blounts.

A great fair is annually held here on the 24th of April, where dealers supply themselves with oxen and other cattle for the Northamptonshire markets.

Three miles from Orleton, on the Presteign road, we enter on the fine demesne of

CROFT CASTLE.

the residence of Mrs. Davies, formerly the seat of the Crofts, "a famous, ancient, and knightly family." Sir Bernard Croft resided here in the reign of Edward the Confessor, about the year 970; Sir Jasper, his successor, joining Harold, was deprived of his estate by William the Conqueror, who gave it to his follower William de Swehin. The Croft family afterwards regaining possession, retained this estate till the end of the last century.*

* Sir Richard Croft was High Sheriff of Herefordshire and captor of Prince Edward at the battle of Tewksbury. Him he delivered up to his enemies, "nothing distrusting the King's promise to preserve the life of his royal prisoner, who was a fair and well proportioned young gentleman;" but he was cruelly murdered. Sir Herbert Croft in 1603 was knighted by James I and toward the close of life (says Wood, his biographer) "full weary of the fooleries and vanities of the world, retired to Doway in Flanders, and was there received into the College of Benedictines, where he spent the remainder of his days in strict devotion and religious exercises. At length, after he had macerated his body with fasting, hardship, and devotion, he surrendered up his pious soul to the Almighty on the 10th of April 1622." Sir William Croft was knighted by Charles I became a Colonel in the royal army, and was slain on the 9th of June 1645. Herbert Croft, educated at Doway, and entered in the order of Jesuits, was afterwards reconciled to the English Church, and having studied at Oxford was made Prebend of Salisbury, Chaplain to the King, Prebend of Worcester, Canon of Windsor, and Dean of Hereford, in 1644. Notwithstanding these pre-
sumptions, Dr. Croft was extremely limited in his pecuniary means, and

On the right is a plain Parsonage House, the occasional residence of the very Rev. W. Landon, D.D. Dean of Exeter; and a little further the elegant mansion of

HIGHWOOD HOUSE,
the seat of T. Coleman, Esq.

An extensive park, famous for its large oak and beech trees, continues along an eminence north from Croft Castle, on which is a British Camp, of an elliptical form, with a double ditch and rampart, called Croft Ambrey, from Ambrosius, a celebrated British hero. From this

deprived of all his offices during the civil war, his person, from his freedom of speech and the open boldness of his reproofs, was constantly exposed to peril. Soon after the taking of Hereford, whilst he was speaking from the pulpit against the crime of sacrilege, some parliamentary officers then present began to mutter among themselves, and a guard of musqueteers in the church, preparing their pieces, asked if they should fire at him; but Colonel Birch, their Governor, prevented them. In 1659, on the successive deaths of his two brothers, he became possessed of the family estates, and at the Restoration he was reinstated in all his preferments, and in 1660 promoted to the See of Hereford, which he would never quit though more than once offered a better See. In 1669 he became Dean of the Royal Chapel; but being wearied of a court life, and finding that his piety had little influence in diminishing the dissoluteness of manners then prevalent, he wisely retired to his Diocese, and uniting action to precept, lived a bright example to all around him, of those virtues which entitle men to respect and honour. Anxious to reform some abuses in the Church, in 1675 he published a pamphlet entitled, "The Naked Truth, or the true state of the primitive Church." This work made a prodigious noise, and was read by all people of sense and learning in the kingdom, as embodying the sentiments of those who wished to promote union and peace among christians, rather than general hatred and contention by penalties and persecution. He died May 18th 1691, and was buried beside his friend Dean Benson; the two gravestones having hands on them conjoined, with this inscription, — *In vita conjuncti: in morte non divisi.* Sir Richard Croft, the unfortunate Accoucheur of the Princess Charlotte, was of this family, and justly described as a man of the most honourable principles and the most generous disposition. It is generally known that, exhausted by anxiety and fatigue, with a train of harassing reflections preying on his mind, he was reluctantly persuaded to retire into a bed room where loaded pistols were unhappily left within his reach, and that after midnight in a moment of distraction he put an end to his own life.

position the prospect is very extensive, comprehending within its wide circuit thirteen counties.

At the distance of one mile from Croft Castle, and adjoining the road, is

LUCTON SCHOOL,

the munificent foundation of Mr. J. Pierrepont. This school was established by Act of Parliament in the year 1708. It is under the control of eight gentlemen who hold the following high situations in London, the Common Sergeant, the Master of the Charter House School, the Master of Merchant Taylor's School, the Preacher of the Charter House, the Preacher of Gray's Inn, the Rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, the Rector of St. Peter's, Cornhill, and the President of Sion College. These gentlemen form a corporation under the name of "The Governors of Lucton School." They elect a number of laymen of property, and clergymen, in the neighbourhood of Lucton, to act as their "Councillors" or "Assistants," who every year, in the months of June and December, visit the school, examine the scholars, fill vacancies, and recommend qualified candidates to apprenticeships and University exhibitions. A select number of the Governors meet the Assistants, at intervals, at some of the half-yearly visitations.

There are three superintendents of the school, a Master, an Usher, and a writing Master, who have each of them liberal annual allowances

from the Governors. The number of the scholars, when the school has its complement, is 105. These scholars are divided into three classes or, in the familiar language of the benevolent founder, "Sorts."—The first sort consists of fifty, the sons of parents resident in the parishes of Lucton, Aymstrey, Shobdon, Kingsland, Yarpole, Croft, Eyton, and the township of Luston, in the parish of Eye, and whose annual income must not exceed £20. These fifty boys are annually clothed, and do not pay for tuition.—The second sort consists of thirty boys, the sons of parents whose annual income does not exceed £300. They are chosen, as the first sort, from the seven parishes and township: but if there be not a sufficient number of candidates found within them, boys from any part of the kingdom are eligible to supply the vacancies. The second sort are not clothed by the Governors; and each boy pays £1 annually for his tuition. All the paper, copy books, and school books that the boys of the first and second sort use in the school, are gratuitously supplied by the Governors. The boys of both these sorts cannot be admitted on the foundation before seven, nor, we believe, after thirteen years of age. Every year boys out of these two sorts are recommended to trades, after they have been four years at least on the foundation. With each boy thus recommended, a fee of £5 is given at the time of binding; £5

more at the termination of two years service ; and at the end of seven years, on producing honourable testimonials of integrity and good conduct, an additional bounty of £20. In the whole £30 to each boy. Every two years an exhibition of £75 a year is ready to be given to any duly qualified candidate, from either of the two sorts, to go to any college in either of the two Universities. Each exhibition is limited to four years from the time of admission on the University Rolls.—The third sort consists of the master's boarders, who are limited to twenty-five. They are eligible from any part of the kingdom : but they have no advantage from the apprentice fees and exhibitions, if they be not admitted into either the first or second sorts.

Mr. Pierrepont's epitaph in Lucton Chapel, —

Sacred to the memory of Mr. John Pierrepont, Vintner and Citizen of London, younger son of Mr. Ralph Pierrepont and Elizabeth his wife of this parish, and originally descended from the Pierreponts in Nottinghamshire ; he lived unmarried, and having with the blessing of God and applause of men, gained a plentiful Estate, he retired to his native Place to dedicate the greatest part of it to pious uses : The Free School here founded and endowed by him in his life time, and established by Act of Parliament ; Divine Service restored to this Chapel by a settled allowance to a Minister, the larger endowment of his foundation by his last will, his Legacies to the Hospitals of Mile end, and St. Bartholomew's in London, of which he was a Governor, his provision for the augmentation for ever of poor Vicars, will all remain as so many lasting Monuments of his truly great and excellent mind, of his natural disposition to useful Charities, his love to Arts and Learning, his affection to the Church of England, and of his zeal for God's glory. Thus he lived a rare pattern of good works, and died Nov. 15, 1711, in the 88th year of his age.

One mile from Lucton School is the hamlet of
MORTIMER'S CROSS,
situated in a very beautiful valley, near the place

where a remarkable battle was fought between the partizans of the rival houses of York and Lancaster. To commemorate this event, a neat Tuscan Pedestal of white stone has been erected, at the distance of one mile from Mortimer's Cross, in an angle of two roads, diverging to Leominster and Stratford Bridge, with the following inscription,—

The Pedestal is erected to perpetuate the memory of an obstinate, bloody, and decisive battle fought near this spot, in the civil wars between the ambitious houses of York and Lancaster, on the second day of February, 1459, between the forces of Edward Mortimer, Earl of March, afterwards Edward IV. on the side of York, and those of Henry VI. on the side of Lancaster. The king's forces were commanded by Jasper, Earl of Pembroke: Edward commanded his own in person, and was victorious. The slaughter was great on both sides, 4000 being left dead upon the field; and many Welsh persons of the first distinction were taken prisoners, among whom was Owen Tudor, great grandfather to Henry VIII. and a descendant of the illustrious Cadwallader, who was afterwards beheaded at Hereford. This was the decisive battle which fixed Edward IV. on the throne of England. He was proclaimed King on the 5th of March following.

Erected by Subscription, 1799.

Three miles north of Mortimer's Cross is

WIGMORE.

The situation of this village is very romantic: its site is the slope of an immense mountain of bare rock, and the streets themselves are undisturbed masses of stone, which renders them almost impassable for horses and carriages. Upon an eminence to the west is Wigmore Castle, which was built by Ethelfleda about the year 900, and Edward, the brother of this celebrated and magnanimous lady, is said to have repaired and added to its strength and beauty. Ranulph Mortimer wrested it from Edric Silvaticus, Earl of

Shrewsbury ; and through a succession of ages, this family continued to possess vast estates ; became great and powerful ; and opposing themselves against the regal authority, by their ambition and their intrigues several of the English monarchs were made to tremble on the throne.

Edward IV. when Duke of York, resided in this Castle : it was given by King James I. to Thomas Harley, Esq. of Brampton Brian. This gentleman was grandfather to the Lord Treasurer of that name, from whom it has descended to its present possessor, the Earl of Oxford.

On the hills west of the Castle were two Parks, now ploughed up and cultivated.

Wigmore Church is a spacious building, the walls of which are of an apparently artificial compound, cast in moulds, and of a porous texture, similar to pumice stone. The Abbey is said to have been founded by Hugh Mortimer, in the year 1179, for Augustine Monks. It was dedicated to St. James. At the dissolution this religious house shared the fate of those whose very walls were demolished.

Some time ago there was found among the ruins of the Abbey Church a leaden coffin, which contained a human body apparently perfect in its form, but which, on exposure to the air, crumbled to dust. There were buried in this Church eight descendants of Hugh Mortimer, five of whom were Earls of March. At the old

farm house, called now the Abbey Grange, there used to be shown a fair canopy of wainscot, under which the Abbot used to sit: it was in a large room called the Abbot's council chamber. The arms of the Mortimer family also appeared over one of the chimney places; and among the outbuildings is a public house said to have been the Abbot's prison. These buildings are now much altered.

Two annual fairs are held at Wigmore, on the 6th of May, and on the 5th of August.

Five miles north-west from Ludlow is

DOWNTON CASTLE,

the property of T. A. Knight, Esq. which was erected under the direction of the late highly accomplished brother of its present possessor, between forty and fifty years ago. It is an edifice of peculiar and externally irregular form: but internally every part is very conveniently arranged, without waste of space, its towers being, as good taste and reason point out that such parts should be, large enough for human habitation. It stands upon a terrace on the north side of the river Teme, and is elevated about 100 feet above that river, towards which the ground gradually falls. Upon the opposite side of the river, rise the Bringewood hills, having their bases clothed with extensive groves of large timber intermixed with pasture grounds. Towards the

east the Titterstone Clee Hill rises very magnificently over woods, making the scene from the terrace one of the most grand and beautiful in the island.

The walks of Downton, which are well known, and much visited by travellers, extend to the west, following the course of the river which here occupies a deep ravine, that it appears to have worn during the lapse of ages. Upon the sides of this ravine the rocks have in places, where the texture has been firm, remained perpendicular over the stream; in other parts they have given way and fallen into the course of the river, and been carried away by its impetuosity. The ground consequently rises from each side of the river in very various and irregular forms; and it is every where clothed with timber; and the river, having a considerable descent and being confined within a narrow course, ripples over a succession of low falls. Much picturesque scenery is consequently presented, which varies as it is beheld from every successive point. The walks, which have been made at different elevations along the sides of the ravine, have been conducted with much taste and art, though these will scarcely be seen by the careless observer; for the natural character of the place has been as much preserved as possible, and the direction of the walks appears at first view to have been regulated by a regard to convenience only.

A select collection of paintings, chiefly from old Masters, have lately been put up, and the house much improved.

About a mile from the Castle is the small village of Downton, in the rural Churchyard of which is the following beautiful epitaph,—

Here mouldering in the cold embrace of death,
What once was elegance and beauty lies:
Mute is the music of her tuneful breath,
And quench'd the radiance of her sparkling eyes.
A prey to lingering malady she fell,
Ere yet her form had lost its vernal bloom.
Her virtues misery oft relieved may tell;
The rest let silent charity entomb.
Nor suffer busy unrelenting zeal.
E'en here her gentle frailties to pursue:
Let envy turn from what it cannot feel,
And malice reverence what it never knew:
But should the justice of the good and wise
Condemn her faults, with judgment too severe,
Let mild eyed pity from the heart arise,
And blot the rigid sentence with a tear.

Died March 6, A. D. 1795, aged 21 years and 8 months.

LEINTWARDINE,

is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Teme, eight miles from Ludlow, on the road to Knighton. It lies near the confluence of the Teme and Clun; and from the quantity of fine fish, particularly Trout and Greyling, in the surrounding streams, is much resorted to by company from very distant parts, as a fashionable fishing place. It is but a small town, consisting principally of one long street. The Church, which is large, is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and was appropriated to the Abbey of Wigmore. Mr. Silas Taylor, in his MS. informs us that this Church was remarkable for

stained glass ; and there are still many fine pieces remaining, with crowns, lions, fleur de lis, the arms of Mortimer, &c.

Ten miles from Ludlow, on the Knighton road, is

BRAMPTON BRIAN,

so called from the Castle built by Bryan de Brampton, a powerful Norman Lord. The Bramptons held this Lordship till the reign of Edward I. when Margaret, a coheiress, conveyed it to the present family of the Earl of Oxford, by marriage with Robert de Harley. The Castle, a building of great antiquity, continued the principal seat of the Harleys to the time of the civil wars of Charles I. when it twice sustained the attacks of the king's forces, and was ultimately demolished. A curious chimney, rising like a turret above the curtain, and a staircase are tolerably perfect, but the other parts of the building are destroyed. The church has been imperfectly repaired in those parts which were damaged by the siege : it is closely attached to the ruined Keep of the Castle. In the south wall is an altar tomb, on which is extended the effigy of a lady unknown. Above this is a marble tablet in memory of Robert Harley, first Earl of Oxford. In the village is the family mansion of the Harleys, a handsome brick building ; and to the west is the park, nearly six miles in circumference.

A short distance from Brampton Brian is

STANAGE PARK,

the seat of Edward Rogers, Esq. M.P. The house is a noble modern edifice, surrounded by a park and pleasure grounds.

We next come to the much admired village of

CLUNGUNFORD,

where the seat and park of the Rev. J. Rocke, stand preeminent. Proceeding northward we arrive at

SIBDON CASTLE,

a large and pleasant mansion, belonging to James Fleming Baxter, Esq. near to which is the Church. Lord Littleton, in his letters, observes on visiting Sibdon; "we came to a Gentleman's House on the side of a hill, opening to a sweet valley, which seemed to be built in a taste much superior to that of a mere country Squire. We therefore stopt and desired to see it; which curiosity was well paid for: we found it the neatest and best house of a moderate size that we ever saw. The master it seems was bred to the Law, but quitted the profession about fifteen years ago, and retired into the country upon an estate of £500 per annum: (or as the original MS. relates £1500 per annum) with a wife and four children; notwithstanding which encumbrances he found means to fit up the house, in the manner we saw it, with remarkable elegance, and to plant all the hills about him with groves and clumps of trees, that, together with an admirable

prospect seen from it, renders it a place which a monarch might envy. But to let you see how vulgar minds value such improvements, I must tell you an answer made by our guide, who was servant to Lord Powis's Steward, and spoke, I presume the sense of his master; upon our expressing some wonder that this gentleman had been able to do so much with so small a fortune;--"I do not," said he, "know how it is, but he is always doing some nonsense or another."

This place has been justly celebrated, as commanding an extensive prospect over a singularly interesting tract of country; wood-crowned hills, fruitful vales, venerable ruins; the humble cottage of the labourer, and the stately mansion of the opulent, diversify the scene; which is rendered yet more attractive by the wild grandeur of the Cambrian hills.

About eight miles from Ludlow is

MARLOW,

a handsome country house belonging to R. Littlehales, Esq.

In the parish of Leintwardine is

HEATH HOUSE,

a genteel seat, placed rather in a low situation, near the banks of the Clun; it has a small park in front. In 1685 it belonged to Mr. J. Edwards, afterwards Sir J. Edwards, who beautified and enlarged it. It afterwards came into the family of the Beales, in which it still con-

tinues. At some distance towards the north is
HOPTON CASTLE,

the ruins of which, though now small, indicate it to have been formerly a strong place. It is now the property of the proprietor of Heath House. In the civil wars of Charles I. it belonged to Mr. Wallop, under whom it was gallantly defended for the Parliament; the siege lasted a fortnight, and the besieged, after resigning themselves up to the *mercy* of Sir Michael Woodhouse, were all stripped naked and inhumanly murdered, except the Governor, Samuel More, Esq. who was detained as a common prisoner in Ludlow Castle.* Sir Walter de Hopton was the head of the family de-

*Siege of Hopton Castle, from the manuscript of Colonel More.

"I went to Hopton Castle February 18, and on the 25th the enemy approached and burnt part of the outwalls. They then attempted to scale the walls, but we drove them away, and killed three. Mr. Sutton then came to require the delivery of the Castle; and I sent word I understood no message without sound of drum or trumpet; he then sent word he had taken my son, but it proved to be Robin Miliward they took for him. The Friday following their first attempt they retreated, but kept courts of guard, with horse and foot. At this time we were only 16 men, myself and Major Phillips included; Major Phillips came on the Tuesday after my arrival, to assist in directing the works on which all hands were industriously engaged. By his advice we sent to Brompton Castle for more men, and they lovingly sent 12, who meeting with the enemy, only 6 of them came to us; but afterwards we had 8 more, so we were in all 31 men. Except some alarms in the nights we were not attacked till six days after the first assault: they then entered the town with 500 horse and foot, and Sir Michael Woodhouse sent a summons with a drum, demanding the Castle in the name of Prince Rupert; offering to send hostages if we would treat. My answer was that I kept it for the King and Parliament, by consent of Mr. Wallop, the owner. Two hours before day they approached the walls, burnt Richard Steward's chamber, and with Pioneers made a breach behind a chimney, which the sentinels discovering gave the alarm, and there we fought at push of pike, throwing stones and shouting. The enemy, as we afterwards learned, were 200 strong, many of them got through the breach, but not within our works, but as in a pinfold in the circumference of their burnt lodging, where we killed

riving its surname from this place; he was under Sheriff of the county in 1268, in 1275 was

many; among whom was Captain Vaughan, who was brother in law to Mr Edwards of Stretton; there we repulsed them, and took 6 muskets, 10 pikes, 8 clubs which they called roundheads, boards many, and 6 or 8 ladders. After this repulse they marched in a body to Clunyngford, but kept scouts and courts of guard at a distance a little beyond musket shot, and we were quiet almost a week except for some alarms; then they returned in full body and entered the town; the day following Mr. Frau, Herbert and Mr. Charles Baldwyn desired to speak with me, to which I yielded consent on mutual assurance of safety; but took one faithful man with me, named Richard Brecknock, who was within hearing, and so were many of their side, particularly Captain Pindor; their wish was to persuade me to deliver up the Castle, with probable hopes I might live with my wife and enjoy my estate. I answered, it was not like an honest man to betray a trust, but for my part would leave it to them that trusted me; and if I might live with a safe conscience at home I should be glad of it. So this way not hearkened to I parted with them, being told from Secretary Nichols by Captain Pindor of the Scotts defeat, I told him I knew the Secretary well, and this saved my life; this was Saturday, and next day came in a carriage of cannon basket, and in the night 8 pieces of ordnance; on Monday at 8 o'clock a drum summoned the delivery of the Castle, which if we did not yield before the shooting of one piece of ordnance, we must not expect quarter. Our answer was that we were trusted to keep it, and would do it with loyalty and fidelity: on receiving our answer they shot at us, and continued with culverin and demy culverin from 9 o'clock till 5; they shot 96 shots at our outwalls, and made a breach, but we laboured to prevent their entry, and piled up earth and boughs of trees. About 5 they approached the breach, which we defended for the space of 2 hours at least, with pikes, muskets and clubs, and gave them a repulse, with the loss of one man, killed with a cannon shot, and 3 or 4 hurt; but they lost in all 150, or as some say 200. Next day they desired to fetch their dead, to which we yielded, and they were quiet all Tuesday till night; when they came to the brick tower we had made the first week we came, and set it on fire, which when we saw, and could not prevent, we set Gregory's house on fire, which burning, took hold on the new brick dwelling house and burnt it. Then we fell to make up the door of the Castle, which the enemy perceiving, shot their ordnance and killed 1 man and hurt 2. We made up the door, but they brought broom faggots, and though we threw water and did all we could, yet the porch burnt and the door began to fire, and our men, weary with working all night, and not having been out of their clothes during a fortnight, and the enemy gotten under us through a house of office on the south side, it was moved we should desire a parley; on which we were desired to send our conditions; which Mr. Phillips and I did, to this effect. That we would surrender the Castle, so we might march away with our army and ammunition. They desired we should have any conditions, but to yield to the Colonel's mercy: consulting together we found so much stuff with provisions in the room below, (the Castle consisting of 1 room below and one above) that we had no chance to countermine; and our stairs were made up, being close to the door where the barricade was; and having removed Mr. Grego-

appointed Baron of the Exchequer, and was afterwards one of the Justices itinerant. He was one of the Judges into whose conduct Edward I.

ry's stuff, we plainly heard them working under us, and as I was told, we should have been blown up in 2 hours. We agreed to yield, on quarter for our lives. Answer, no other condition than to be referred to Colonel Woodhouse's mercy. After consulting, it was judged better to yield than be blown up; but indeed we only thought to be made prisoners, not believing so many honest souls would meet such a death as followed, so we told them we would yield to their mercy, only desiring a safe conduct to the commanders in chief. So we came out and stood in order. I was committed to Lieut. Aldersey, and Major Phillips to Ensign Phillips. So whilst the soldiers and Henry Gregory had their arms tyed, we all stayed, and then we were bidden march. So I went, and thinking the rest followed, but having passed over the water by Richard Steward's house, toward Mr. Sutton's house, I looked back and marvelled to see none follow: but supposed they were to be examined apart, and understood they were stayed behind. When brought before Sir Michael Woodhouse, was asked the number of men, with arms and ammunition; I told him about 22 muskets, carbines and fowling pieces, and 3 pistols. He asked what we fought for? I told him we thought he, as many other men were misled. So he commanded me to the custody of Lieut. Aldersey, to one Glasebrook's house in the upper end of the town, where, after I had been about an hour, an officer asked what money I knew of there hid; I told him none. He said Mr. Phillips confessed to some. After some threatenings he went. Another came and asked whether I desired to live? I answered, it was natural to do so, but did not prize life above a good conscience. It was about 8 hours after the delivery of the Castle, Lieut. Aldersey asked how many of the soldiers I thought were gone to Shrewsbury? I told him I knew not, he told me none. On which I, supposing they were delivered, was somewhat cheerful; he then told me with an oath, they were all killed; whereat I was troubled in myself, but somewhat hiding my emotion, said I hoped they were happy. Night coming on, I was called to eat with the Lieut. who used me civilly, but I eat little; he then let me lie on his own bed till day break, when I was conveyed to Ludlow, where I remained a close prisoner till the taking of Brompton Castle, yet my wife was allowed to visit me whilst an officer stood by. Captain Dean, of Sir Michael Woodhouse's regiment, came to persuade me to write a letter to persuade the besieged in Brompton Castle to save themselves by a timely surrender, assuring me that they had much battered the Castle, and were ready to spring a mine. So I wrote to Mr. Wright that I heard Brompton Castle was not likely to hold out long, and conditions were better granted timely, than stay too long, but I left it to his more wise consideration. He answered me that he heard Sir M. Woodhouse brake his conditions with me, promising quarter and giving none, and he would not treat with him. I replied we were referred to his mercy; so then they treated, and I hope bloodshed was hindered. After this I had leave to speak to the people of the house, and so continued till my exchange: only Mr. Symmons, a minister of Essex, who was Sir M. Woodhouse's Chaplain, got me so much liberty

instituted an inquiry, and his fine on that occasion was £30,000. Spelman gives the following account of this affair:—"In the year 1290, 18 of Ed. I. all the Justices of England were apprehended for corruption, except John Mettingham and Elias Bleckingham (whom I name for their honour), and by judgment of Parliament condemned, some to imprisonment, others banishment or confiscation of their estates, none escaped without grievous fines and the loss of their offices." It was at this period that the slavish service of Villeinage began to be gradually abolished. One Roger Brun had resided within the liberty of Shrewsbury ten years; at the end of which period Walter de Hopton, claiming him as his native (that is Villein born), violently entered the said liberty, and seized and imprisoned him in his Castle of Hopton: but the Community of Shrewsbury sued Hopton for breach of peace; and grounding their action on the law of the then king, Ed. I. gained a victory over this powerful Baron and eminent lawyer, evincing the probity of Edward's Judges, and established a precedent in favour of this degraded

as to go to the Chapel in the Castle 2 Sabbath days; otherwise I was not permitted to go out of the Lodge."

In a letter to Mr. Phillips' sister, the following occurs.—"He, as all the rest, were unmercifully killed. Your brother offered £20 to save his life; they brought him into the Castle to receive the money, and he requested them to send to Brompton Castle, they would have it, but they swore at him and stabbed him presently. All the rest, being 25, were killed with clubs and such things, after they were stripped naked. Two maids they stripped to their smocks and cut them, but some helped them to escape."

class of Englishmen, which in process of time led to their complete emancipation.

A little to the south-east of Sibdon Castle is

STOKE CASTLE,

improperly indeed called a Castle, but constituting a curious specimen of the castellated mansion of former days. It has suffered a degradation not uncommon to places of ancient note; part of it being used as an out-house to an adjoining farm, and the rest allowed to fall into decay.

A gate-house constructed of wooden framework, with curious carvings, leads to a quadrangular court, on one side of which are remains of the rampart, and the other sides are occupied by the house, the offices and the tower; the whole building is moated round. The hall and tower are opposite to the gate-house, which exhibit in their ruins, striking traces of beauty and grandeur. The hall measures 54 by 32 ft. the entrance from the court is by a door-way with a pointed arch; the lofty windows of this spacious room are divided by single mullions, the heads pointed and filled with plain circles. There is no vestige of a fire place, the ancient mode of warming apartments of this description being by a reredoss, or brazier, filled with burning charcoal, and placed in the centre; the smoke arising from this domestic apparatus has completely blackened the wood work. At one

end is the gallery for the minstrels on days of rejoicing, under which is a door leading to the buttery. The high table was on the opposite southern side of the room. A plain low porch of wood and plaster leads from the south-east angle by a staircase to the great chamber, or withdrawing room, which measures 29 by 19 ft. the wainscot is of oak, with intermediate ornamental pilasters. The chimney-piece is richly carved in wood, with busts of tight-laced ladies and whiskered knights, surrounded by embossed shields and foliage. This apartment is conjectured to have been newly fitted up about the end of the sixteenth century. The tower, which is of a singular form, rises from the south-west corner of the court. It is an irregular polygon, which, by its receding angles, produces a romantic and pleasing effect. It is lofty, and crowned with an embattled parapet; the ground floor is a low gloomy apartment, lighted by four small pointed windows, and the two upper stories are divided into very small rooms. There is also the ground story of a square tower, with numerous small rooms, in which are the remains of ancient workmanship.

This mansion was garrisoned for Charles I, and occupied by forces commanded by Danvers, who served under Sir Michael Woodhouse, Governor of Ludlow; and Sir William Croft fell here, in a rencontre with the Parliamentary

forces, on the 9th of June, 1645. Stoke Castle was inhabited in 1673 by Sir Samuel Baldwyn, Sergeant at Law, and a descendant of the same family now holds this place, on a lease from Earl Craven.

Near Stoke Castle, on the road to Ludlow, is the pleasant Village of

ONIBURY,

interesting by its rural Church overshadowed with ivy, and the beauty of its surrounding scenery. A school was established here in 1593 by Mr. William Norton, who bequeathed to it £6 : 6 : 8 yearly, which, with an addition from the parish funds, is advanced to £12. The Rector has also added a convenient house and garden. The scholars are taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and the school is free for all who apply.

About four miles from Ludlow, near the Shrewsbury Road, is

STONE HOUSE,

the occasional residence of the Earl of Powis.

FERNEY HALL,

belonging to Mrs. Sitwell, and now occupied by General Lloyd, is placed on an eminence, and commands a fine extensive view towards the east, including Oakley Park, and the Town and Castle of Ludlow, with the Clee Hills, and other distant objects.

BROMFIELD

is a Village two miles from Ludlow, in the vicinity, and partaking of the rural elegance of Oakley Park. This place was formerly distinguished by its Priory, which is understood to have been situated near, or adjoining to, the present Church. The establishment here in the time of Henry I. about the year 1100, consisted of a small College of Prebendaries, or secular Canons. Osbertus, Prior of Bromfield, is witness to a deed before the year 1148; and Henry II. granted to this Priory his Church in Bromfield, which was dedicated to the blessed Saint Mary, with his royal licence, and protection of their extensive possessions of the towns and lands of Haverford, Dinchope, Efford, Felton, Burghey, and Lethewic; three Prebends in Bromfield and three in Halton; and by another Charter he confirms to them their Hays and Liberties in Mocktree wood, Ailriche's wood, Kanewood, Dinchope and Esrugge, to wit, from Eilfichway to Ludford along the Rudgeaway; to hold to them, with all liberties to free Hays belonging, &c. In these Charters the following names occur,—“Frethericus Clericus de Bureford, Robertus Coleman de Pontesbury, Edrick's Presbiter de Bromfield, Robert's Presbiter de Felthune.”

In the year 1155, the second of Henry II. the Prior and Brothers of the Priory of Bromfield,

placed themselves under the government of the Benedictine Monastery near Gloucester, called Lanthony Secunda, and became Benedictines, and continued so to the time of the general dissolution.

At the Assizes of Salop, 20th. Edward I. the Prior of Bromfield claimed free warren, in the manor of Bromfield, by Charter of Henry II. which was allowed. The said Charter comprised also a grant of Infangthef, and a jury found one Henry de la Chapele guilty of theft, who was tried and condemned by the Prior, and hanged in Bromfield.

This Priory was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and valued at the dissolution at £78 : 19 : 4. It was granted to Charles Foxe, fourth of Phillip and Mary ; and Sir Charles Foxe sold it in the seventh of James I. to Richard Tomlins, Gent. from whom it afterwards passed to the ancestor of the present Earl of Powis. The Living of Bromfield is now a Vicarage, rated in the king's books at £6; patron, the Hon. R. H. Clive. The Court of Augmentation, decreed the Vicar of Bromfield a yearly pension from the dissolved Monastery of Gloucester ; and there are, in vellum books, in the king's remembrancer's office, accounts of several decrees, relating to the possessions of the Priory, and the rights of the Vicar of this place.

OAKLEY PARK,

the noble seat of the Hon. Robert Henry Clive, M.P. is delightfully situated on the banks of the Teme. This gentleman married Lady Harriet, daughter of the Earl of Plymouth. The family of Clive has been resident in Shropshire from the time of Henry II. James Clive Esq. of Huxley married the daughter and heiress of Thomas Styche, Esq. of Styche, and lived till the latter part of the reign of Henry VII. his son Richard Clive was Member of Parliament for Montgomery, and was the father of Robert Lord Clive, who was born in 1725 at the old family seat of Styche, and who for extraordinary services in India was created Lord Clive of Plassey in the county of Clare in Ireland. His Lordship's eldest son Edward, the second Lord Clive, was advanced to the Peerage by the titles of Lord Clive of Walcot, Earl Powis, Viscount Clive of Ludlow, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and Lord Powis of Powis Castle. He married Henrietta Antonia daughter of Henry Arthur Earl of Powis, and sister and heiress of George Edward Henry Arthur, the last of the line of Herbert, Earl of Powis. The greater part of the mansion is of modern construction, and extensive improvements have been made by the present possessor; its spacious library is enriched with choice and valuable books; the drawing room, museum, and billiard room are fitted up with elegance and taste;

and the columns of the gallery are of fine marble, supporting an entablature the frieze of which is designed from the celebrated Phigalian Marbles.

The surrounding grounds are romantic and beautiful, and the plantations near the house laid out with taste and judgment, to the pleasing variety of which, the meanderings of the river add very considerably. There are many fine views in different directions; particularly that toward the south-east, presenting a distant prospect of Ludlow Castle.

The park, which formerly contained nine hundred acres, and is supposed to have included within its circuit the priory to which it originally belonged, is yet very extensive. It is finely adorned with groves of some of the stateliest oaks in the kingdom, lying promiscuously in woods and clumps, and on the sides of the river.

The Lordship of Bromfield is coextensive with the parish, and its Chapelry of Halford and Dinchope, and the township of Ledwich; on the south it is bounded by Herefordshire; on the west by the parish of Onibury; on the north by Stanton Lacy; and on the east by the town of Ludlow, to the walls of which it adjoins.

Through this manor flow the rivers Teme, Oney, and Corve; the former through the park and beside the house, the others passing into it in the immediate vicinity. These are esteemed

the best fishing streams in the kingdom ; and the woods and lands afford hares, pheasants, partridges, wild ducks, and game of all kinds in abundance.

STANTON LACY HOUSE.

This elegant mansion has been enlarged and modernized, and tasteful and judicious embellishments introduced in the extensive gardens, by the present proprietor, J. H. Holder, Esq.

BRICK HOUSE,

at present occupied by Mr. Urwick, who has established a respectable School in this pleasant and healthy situation.

STANTON LACY

is two miles from Ludlow beyond the Race Ground. Part of this village, with Langley, Rockele (now Rockley), &c. formerly belonged to the Monastery of Lanthony.

In the year 1814 Richard Nash, Esq. of Ludlow, bequeathed £100 to the poor of this parish, the interest of which is distributed on Christmas Day annually ; and an excellent Benefit Society has lately been established under the auspices of J. H. Holder, Esq. for the purpose of raising, from time to time, by subscription of the several members thereof, and by voluntary contributions, a fund for the relief and support of the members in old age, sickness, and infirmity. In this parish, on the hill below Hayton's Bent, a number of small houses constitute the sylvan hamlet of

Hope: the water which forms the rivulet falling from this elevation, in its passage through rocks, becomes strongly impregnated with carbonate of lime, and is found to possess the property of forming petrifications.

Leaving Stanton Lacy, we successively arrive at the village of Culmington at the distance of four miles, Seifton five, Corfton six, and

DELBURY,

the genteel seat of the Bishop of Worcester, seven miles from Ludlow. Returning towards the Clee Hill, we perceive

DOWNTON HALL,

the seat of Sir William Edward Rouse Boughton, Bart. which stands on elevated ground, surrounded by extensive plantations. Sir William succeeded to the title on the demise of his father, 26th Feb. 1821. He married Charlotte, the youngest daughter of Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq. of Downton Castle. Hall of Downton (by whom the estate came) descended from Sir David Hall, ancestor of the chronicler of that name. Sir David is styled—of Kinnersly, and his grandson—of Northall, both in Shropshire. Sir David was of great lineage, fifth in descent from Frederic, a natural son of Albert, second Emperor of Germany of the House of Hapsburgh. Frederic was denominated van Hall, from the town in the Tyrol where he was born; he is said to have been slain in battle at the age of 99. Downton

Hall is about three miles north-east from Ludlow. At the bottom of the hill is

HENLEY HALL,

the residence of the Rev. S. Johnes Knight. It is a large brick building, two miles from Ludlow, on the Cleobury road. On the south front extends a well wooded park, with walks and plantations. The river Ledwich passes close by the house. At a short distance is

BITTERLEY COURT,

belonging to the Rev. J. Walcot, at the foot of the Clee Hill; above which, the Titterstone, rising on the north-east, forms a grand and prominent object, and the prospect toward Ludlow, over a rich and well-cultivated tract of country, is highly pleasing. Near the house is the Church, in which are found records of various charities; that of Sergeant Powis, afterwards Judge Powis, who bequeathed £50; of Mr. Richard Page, of Park Hall, who bequeathed £10; and of Mrs. Ann Sheppard of Middleton, who bequeathed to the poor of Bitterley the sum of £500. In the adjoining pleasant and healthy Village is

BITTERLEY SCHOOL,

where, under the superintendance of Mr. James Green, a limited number of boarders are comfortably accommodated, and well educated in the different branches of a classical, commercial, and polite education, on moderate terms.

From the parish records we find this school has been founded upwards of one hundred years, as the following extract taken from the parish books will prove;—“The said school being by deed settled for the use and benefit of the parish, one Mr. Humphrey Butler was first elected schoolmaster there by a great majority of voices of the said parish that pay to church and poor, pursuant to said deed, upon Easter Tuesday, being the 7th of April, 1713.” The original endowment was for the instruction of the parish children, for which the master has a commodious house, with garden, play-ground, &c. and also a weekly stipend from the parents of each child, according to the amount of their respective rents. Mr. John Newborough, head master of Eton School, by will dated the 18th of January, 1712, left £400 to purchase an estate “for the use, benefit, and maintenance of the master for the time being, for ever.” With £300 of this money an estate was bought, containing 39A. 1R. 23P. called Little Perth-y-bee, in the parish of Kerry, Montgomeryshire. The buildings on this estate being destroyed by fire, £50 was given in 1779 to the Rev. J. Attwood, (then master) to rebuild the same, of the remaining £50 no account can be obtained. The appointment of the master is vested in the parishioners who pay to church and poor. The good management and attention of the present

master, (who was elected in October 1823,) has given general satisfaction, and the school is extensively patronised.

THE TITTERSTONE CLEE HILL, is five miles from Ludlow, and rises to the height of 1800 feet. The summit of it, on which was formerly a Roman Camp, affords very extensive prospects on every side, bounded by different ranges of distant hills, so that on a clear day no less than thirteen or fourteen counties are to be seen with the naked eye ; but the sides (as Lord Littleton observes) are more difficult to pass than almost any of the Welsh hills, being covered with loose stones, or rather with pieces of rocks, which from their extraordinary magnitude must have required an immense force to throw in the different directions in which we find them scattered. The extreme point, called Titterstone, which comprehends a space of nearly an acre and half of ground, is supposed to have been formed by a volcano, the rugged exterior of this hill, is compensated by the great quantity of coal and iron-stone found within it ; with the former of which, of a very excellent quality, the surrounding country is supplied.

The Collieries are chiefly on the south, and north-east sides of the Clee Hill, and in sinking the deepest pit on the first of these, the following strata occur.—Earth, sandstone-rock, and basalt, called jewstone, 75 yards ; sandstone-

rock, bind, clunch, and coal-roof, 23 yards ; the great coal, 2 yards ; coal-bottom and ironstone-roof, 1 yd. 1 ft. ironstone 1 yd. 6 in. three-quarters coal, 1 ft. 6 in. clumper, 2 yds. smith's coal, 1 yd. 2 ft. smith's coal-bottom, down to the four feet coal-rock, 2 ft. in all 107 yds. 1 ft. The pits on the Knowbury side of the hill are considerably deeper, two of which are more than 200 yards : on this side, the stratum of basalt does not occur.

Opposite the north-east side of the Clee Hill, is

HOPTON COURT,

the seat of T. Botfield, Esq. near which is the village of Hopton Wafers ; remarkable as giving a singular instance of longevity in William Hyde, who residing here, lived to the advanced age of 106 years. He enjoyed health and activity nearly to the last, and had sons upwards of 80 years old at the time of his decease in 1798.

The celebrated William Henry West Betty, arose from this obscure village ; beginning his career at eleven years of age ; and performing to crowded theatres with singular success.

To the south of the Clee Hill, is

COURT OF HILL,

an ancient family mansion, lately occupied by J. Fowler, Esq. and in the same neighbourhood, near the village of Hope Bagot, we arrive at the antique mansion of



WHITTON COURT,

which was the seat of the Charlton family previous to their occupation of Ludford. It is a very fine specimen of what is called Queen Elizabeth's style of architecture, though it is supposed to have been built by Sir Robert Charlton in the early part of the reign of Charles I. At present it is only inhabited by a tenant of E. L. Charlton, Esq. though it still retains vestiges of its pristine celebrity, having an extensive park, round which there is a brick wall, and a very fine drawing room, hung to this day with the Tapestry, which in times past probably bore witness to many an entertainment that

"Blazed with lights, and bray'd with mirthlesy."

Descending the hill we arrive at the scattered village of Caynham, in which is

CAYNHAM COURT.

three miles distant from Ludlow. This elegant mansion is the residence of Mrs. Calcott. It is surrounded by plantations, shrubberies, and walks, and situated in a very pleasant district.

On Caynham Camp is the site of an ancient castle, noticed by Leland, who says of it, "Kainsham, or Kensham Castle, clene down, stood within two miles of Ludloe, on a hill top." "It belonged," says Camden, "to the Mortimers, and the Church to Wigmore Abbey." Two fields on the east side are yet called the Castle fields; and immediately below is another in which a deep and wide entrenchment occupies the principal part. Tradition says that this latter was a depository for horses and military stores during the siege of Ludlow Castle by Cromwell. On the top of the hill is a bank covered with trees and underwood, and encircling an open space consisting of six or seven acres. Around this there is a walk, with benches, opposite to which are openings commanding most delightful prospects, not only of the local beauties of the neighbourhood of Ludlow, but of the Malvern Hills, Black Mountains in Brecknockshire, and other distant objects. One mile from Caynham is

THE SHEET,

a modern and pleasant edifice raised from the ruins of an old farm house, the property of

James Eysam Graham, Esq. A little to the south-west is

STEVENTON COTTAGE,
placed on the brow of an eminence overhanging the river Teme, and commanding an extensive prospect into Herefordshire to the left, and to the right presenting a view of the town of Ludlow. This romantic secluded spot is part of the Steventon demesne belonging to E. L. Charlton, Esq.



BANK, MARKETS AND FAIRS,

the going out and coming in of

Mails, Stage Coaches, Waggons, &c.

—♦♦♦♦—

Messrs. Rocke, Eyton & Co. who draw on
Curtis and Co. 15, Lombard Street.

The Market Day is on a Monday; though there are also inferior Markets on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The Fairs are seven in number; Monday before February 13th, Tuesday before Easter, May 1st, Wednesday in Whitsuntide week, August 21st, September 28th, and December 6th.

FROM THE CROWN HOTEL, BROAD STREET.

The London Royal Mail, through Worcester and Oxford, goes out every Morning at Eleven o'clock, (excepting Saturday at $\frac{1}{2}$ before 11) and arrives from London every day at two in the Afternoon. Letters, &c. to go by this Mail must be put in the Post Office by 10 o'clock in the morning.

The Chester and Hereford Royal Mail, through Shrewsbury, arrives every Morning from Hereford at $10\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, and returns the same evening at half past 2. Letters for Shrewsbury and the north of England and Wales, must be put into the Post Office by 10 'clock in the morning; and Letters for Hereford and South Wales, by 2 in the afternoon.

The Royal Mail Coach, to Bishop's Castle, Montgomery, and Welsh Pool, every Evening at half past 2 o'clock, returns the following Morning in time for the London Mail.

FROM THE ANGEL INN, BROAD STREET.

The Aurora Post Coach to London, through Tenbury, Worcester and Oxford, comes in at 2 o'clock, and goes out at half past 3 every day, Sunday excepted.

WAGGONS, &c.

Clewer's London Waggon, sets out from his Warehouse in Corve Street, every Monday evening at 8 o'clock, and arrives at the George Inn, Smithfield, on Saturday Morning: sets out on return early on Sunday morning, and arrives here on the Friday evening following.

The Bishop's Castle Waggon goes out from this Warehouse every Saturday Morning, and returns on Monday.

The Knighton Waggon goes out from this Warehouse every Saturday Morning, and returns on Monday.

The Worcester Waggon goes from this Warehouse every Tuesday night and returns on Thursday evening.

Maxon's Manchester Waggon starts from his Warehouse every Tuesday and Friday nights for Shrewsbury, Chester, and Manchester, and returns on Wednesday and Saturday evenings.

This Waggon goes out every Monday and

Thursday mornings to Leominster, with goods for Hereford, Brecknock, Monmouth, and all South Wales, and returns the same evening.

Robinson's Worcester Waggon comes in on Monday morning, and returns the same evening.

Woodhouse's Cart from Knighton comes in every Tuesday and Friday, and returns every Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Jones' Waggon to Knighton every Wednesday morning, and returns on Thursday night.

Jones' Waggon to Birmingham every Friday morning, and returns on Monday morning.

Thompson's Bewdley Waggon starts every Wednesday and Sunday at noon, and returns on Tuesday and Friday.

Roberts' Gig to Knighton every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The Alert to Kidderminster, through Bewdley, every morning at seven o'clock.

Cave's Carriage to Leominster every Monday evening at five o'clock.

Eddowes' Shrewsbury Journal is brought here on Wednesday evening at seven o'clock.

Watton's Shrewsbury Chronicle arrives on Friday night.

Tymbs' Worcester Journal arrives on Thursday evening at seven o'clock.

Holl's Worcester Herald arrives on Saturday evening at eight o'clock.

A

LIST OF PLANTS,

found in the Neighbourhood of Ludlow, especially such as are rare; together with the Native GRASSES growing in this district.



A CHILLEA, species varie, Yarrow
 Aconitum napellus, Monk's Hood. *Poughill*
 Adoxa moschatellina, Tuberose Moschatel *Near Ludlow*
 Egopodium podagraria, Gout Wort. *Castle walk*
 Agrimonia eupatoria, Agrimony. *Ibidem*
 Agrostemma githago, Corn Cockle
 Agrostis, species var. Bent Grass
 Aira, id. Hair Grass
 Ajuga reptans, Common Bugle
 ——————chamaepitys, Germander
 Alchemilla vulgaris et arvensis, Ladies' Mantle
 Alisma natans, Floating Water Plantain. *Near Tenbury*
 ——————plantago et damasonium, *Near Ludlow*
 Allium ursinum, Wild Garlic. *Caynham camp*
 Alopecurus pratensis, Meadow Foxtail Grass
 Anagallis arvensis, Scarlet Pimpernel
 Anemone nemorosa, Wood Anemone
 Anthoxanthum odoratum, Sweet scented Vernal Grass
 Antennaria, species var. Chamomile
 Anthyllis vulneraria, Lady's Finger
 Autirrhinum luteum, Toad Flax
 ——————majus, Great Snapdragon. *In Frog lane*
 ——————cymbalaria, Ivy-leaved Snapdragon. *Ludlow*
 Artemisia absinthium et vulgaris, Wormwood and Mugwort. *Ashford*.
 Arundo, species var. Reed [and Corse
 Asperugo procumbens, Trailing Catchweed. *Junction of Teme*
 Asperula odorata, Sweet Woodruff. *White N. of coppice*
 Asplenium scolopendrium, Hart's Tongue. *Ludford*
 ——————ceterach et trichomanes. *On walls in Ludlow*
 ——————adiantum, migrum, et ruta muraria. *Ibidem*
 Astragalus, species var. Licorice retch
 Atriplex, id. Orache
 Avena, id. Oat Grass
 Berberis vulgaris, Barberry. *Whitcliffe*
 Betonica officinalis, Betony. *The Branks*
 Bidens cernua, Water Agrimony. *Poughill*
 ——————trispicata, *Bur Marigold. Ashford*
 Borago officinalis, Borage. *Near the Castle Bridge*
 Brassica, species var.
 Briza media et minor, Cow quakes
 Bromus, species var. Broom Grass
 Brionia dioica, Red berried Briony

*Campanula rotundifolia, trachelium, et patula, Bell Flower. Near
Ludlow, on Caynham camp, &c.*
Cardamine, species var.
Caucalis, id. Men's Foot
Centauria cyanus, Blue Bottle
— species var.
Cerastium, id. Mouse Ear
Chærophyllyum, id. Chervil
Chara, id. Stonewort
Chœiranthus fruticosus, Wall-flower. Castle
Chelidonium majus, Great Celandine. Ludlow
Chenopodium bonus Henricus, Good Henry. Castle walk
Chironia centaurium, Centuary. Caynham
Chlora perfoliata, Yellow-wort. Saltmore well [eye
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum et segetem, White and Yellow Ox.
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium, Golden Saxifrage
Cicuta virosa, Hemlock. Banks of the Teme
Circæa lutetiana, Enchanter's Nightshade
Clematis vitalba, Traveller's Joy. Leinthal
Cochlearia armoracia, Horse Radish. Beside the Teme
Colchicum autumnale, Meadow Saffron
Convolvulus, sepium et arvensis, Bindweed
Cotyledon umbilicus, Navelwort. Ludford
Comarum palustre, Marsh Cinquefoil. Bedston and other places
Cynoglossum officinale, Hound's Tongue. Ludford
Cynosurus, species var. Dog's Tail Grass
Cyperus, id. Cyperus Grass

Dactylis stricta et Glomerata, Cock's Foot Grass
Daphne mezereum et Laureola. Whitoff coppice
Datura stramonium. Caynham
Dentaria bulbifera. Caynham camp
*Dianthus caryophyllus, Clove Pink. Walls of the Castle
— deltoides, Maiden Pink. Ludford*
Digitalis purpurea, Foxglove
Dipsacus sylvestris et pilosus, Teasel
Draba, species var. Whitlow Grass
Drosera rotundifolia, Round leaved Sundew. Aston common

Echium vulgare, Viper Grass. Near Ludlow
Elatine hydropiper, Small Waterwort [Near Ludlow
Epilobium angustifolium, hirsutum, et species var. Willow Herb.
Equisetum, species var. Horse-tail. Ibidem
Erica, id. Heath
Erigeron acer, Blue Flea-bane. On walls in Ludlow
— canadense, Canada Flea-bane. On the road to Caynham
Erysimum, species var.
Eupatorium cannabinum, Hemp Agrimony. Poughill
Euphorbia, species var.
Zapærasia officinalis, Eyebright

Festuca, species var. Fescue Grass.
Fragaria sterilis et vesca, Strawberry
Fumaria, species var. Fumitory

Galanthus nivalis, Snowdrop
Galeobdolon luteum, Yellow Archangel
Galeopsis tetrahit, Hemp nettle. Near Ludlow

Galeopsis vernicolor, Bee Nettle. *Caynham camp*
— species var.

Galium, id Crosswort [Whin
Gemista tinctoria, *pilosa*, et *anglica*, Broom, Broom-weed, and Petty
Gentiana amarella, Autumnal Gentian. *Caynham camp*
Geranium lucidum, *sanguineum*, et species var., Crane's bill. *Castle*
walk and neighbourhood of Ludlow
Geum urbanum et *rivale*, Avens. *Ibidem*
Glechoma hederacea, Ground Ivy
Gnaphalium, species var. Cudweed

Hedysarum onobrychis, Sainfoin. *Tinker's hill*
Heleborus viridis et *festidus*, Hellebore
Heracleum spondylium, Cow Parsnip
Hieracium, species var. Hawkweed
Holcus mollis, *lanatus*, et *avensaceus*, Soft Grass
Hordeum, species var. Rye Grass
Humulus lupulus, the Hop
Hyacinthus nonscriptus, Hyacinth
Hydrocharis morsus ranae, Frog-bit
Hyoscyamus niger, Henbane
Hypericum, species var. St. John's Wort

Jasione montana, Sheep's Scabius. *Steventon*
Inula helenium, Elecampane. *Caynham and Bitterley*
Iris pseud-acorus, Yellow Flag. *Near Ludlow*
Isatis tinctoria Woad. *Weeping cross*
Juniperus, Juniper

Lactuca scariola et *virosa*, Wild Lettuce. *Near Ludlow*
Lamium album et *purpureum*, Dead Nettle
Lathra squamaria, Greater Toothwort. *Bitterley*
Lathyrus, species var. Vetchling or Wild Pea [ter stone
Lichen geographicus, *veptosus*, *omphalooides*, *hispidus*, et *fragilis*. *Tif-*
niger, *ferrugineus*, *ericetorum*, *bysoides*, *bucomyces*, *tartareus*,
perellus, *concentricus*, *scruposus*, *punctatus*, *excavatus*, *hypnorum*,
sphaerocephalus, *crispus*, *cristatus*, *sabumbricatus*, *venosus*, *calica-*
ris, *floridus*, *acrobaticatus*, et *sinuatus*. *Whitcliffe*. *Ludford*
park, &c.

Linum perenne et *catharticum*, Flax. *Near Ludlow*
Lithospermum arvense et *officinale*, Gromwell. *Ludford*, &c.
Lolium, species var. Ray Grass
Lotus corniculatus, Bird's Foot Clover
Lycopsis arvensis, Small Bugloss. *Near Ludlow*
Lychnis dioica et *flaccuculi*. *Ibidem*
Lysimachia nummularia, Moneywort
Lycopus Europeus, Gypsywort

Malva, species var. Mallow
Marrubium vulgare, White Horehound. *Near the Race Ground*
Matricaria parthenium, Feverfew. *Near the Castle*
Medicago, species var. Medic
Melampyrum sylvaticum et species var. Cow Wheat
Melica uniflora et *natans*. Melic
Mentha, species var.
Menyanthes trifoliata, Marsh Buck-Bean. *Steventon*
Mercurialis perennis et *annua*, Mercury
Mysotis arvensis et *palustris*, Mouse-ear

Nepeta cataria, Nep

Oenanthe, species var. Dropwort
Ononis spinosa et arvensis, Rest-harrow
Ophioglossum vulgatum, Adder's Tongue. *Poughill*
Ophrys, species var.
Orchis bifolia, maculata, et species var.
Origanum vulgare, Marjoram. *Near the Paper Mill*
Ornithopus perpusillus, Bird's-foot *Whiteliff*
Orobanche major, Broom-rape. *Tinker's hill*
Orobus sylvaticus et tuberosus, Bitter Vetch. *Whiteliff coppice*
Osmunda lunaria, Moonwort. *Caynham camp*
Oxalis acetosella, Wood Sorrel

Panicum, species var. Panic Grass
Parietaria officinalis, Pellitory. *Ludlow*
Paris quadrifolia, Herb Paris. *Haywood*
Pedicularis palustris et sylvatica, Lousewort
Phellandrium aquaticum, Water Hemlock
Phleum pratense et species var. Timothy Grass
Picris echioides et hieracioides, Ox-tongue
Pinguicula vulgaris, Butterwort. *Asten common*
Plantago, species var. Plantain
Poa, id. Meadow Grass
Polygonum bistorta et species var. the Bistorta. *Opposite the Castle*
Polypodium, species var.
Polytrichum, id. Golden Maidenhair
Potamogeton, id. Pond Weed
Potentilla verna, Spring Cinquefoil
Prunella vulgaris et species var. Cinquefoil
Primula vulgaris, elatior, et officinalis, Primrose, Cowslip, and Oxlip
Prunella vulgaris, Self heal
Pteris crispa et aquilina, Female Fern
Pulmonaria officinalis, Lungwort. *Caynham*
Pyrola rotundifolia, Wintergreen. *Whiteliff coppice*
Ranunculus ficaria, flammula, auricomus, aquatilis, et species varie, [Crowfoot
Receda luteola, Dyer's Weed. *Caynham*
Rhamnus catharticus et frangula, Buckthorn. *Steventon*
Ribes, species var. Currant and Gooseberry
Rosa, id. The Rose
Rubia tinctorium, Wild Madder
Rubus vulgaris et minor, Bramble. *The minor beside Cerve*

Sagittaria sagittifolia, Arrowhead
Salix, species var. The Willow
Sanguisorba officinalis, Wild Burnet
Sanicula europaea, Sanicle
Saponaria officinalis, Soapwort. *Steventon*
Satyrium viride, Frog Satyria. *Near Ludlow*
Saxifraga granulata, Castle walk
hypnooides, Titterstone
trydactilites. *Ludlow*
Scabiosa, species var. Scabious
Scandix, id. Shepherd's Needle
Schoenus, id. Rush Grass

Scirpus sylvaticus, Wood Rush
Scleranthus annuus et perennis, Knot Grass
Scrophularia nodosa et verna, Figwort
Scutellaria galericulata et minor, Sculcap. *Oakley Park, and*
Sedum telephium et rupestre, Stonecrop. *Titterstone*
 _____ *acre et reflexum*. *Ludlow*
Sempervivum, House Leek. *Ibidem*
Senecio vulgaris, jacobaea, et species var.
Serapiss latifolia, Helleborine. *Near Oakley Park*
Serratula tinctoria, Saw Wort
Siberardia arvensis, Little Field Madder
Sinapis, species var. Mustard
Sison segetum, Honeywort
Sisymbrium tenuifolium, Wall-rocket. *Ludlow*
Sium, species var. Water Parnip
Smyrnium olusatrum, Alexanders. *Beside the Castle*
Solanum dulcamara et nigrum, Nightshade
Solidago virgaurea, Golden Rod. *Near Ludlow*
Sonchus, species var. Sowthistle
Sparganium, Bur reed
Spartium scoparium, Broom
Spergula, species var. Sparrey
Spiraea ulmaria, Meadow-sweet
Stachys, species var. Woundwort
Stellaria, id. Starwort
Symphytum officinale, Comfrey

Tamus communis, Black Briony
Tancetum valgare, Tansey
Teucrium scorodonia et scorium, Wood Sage and Water Germander
Thlaspium, species var. Wild Rue. *Paper mill*
Thlaspi, id. Shepherd's Purse, &c.
Thymus serpyllum et acinos, Thyme *Whitclif*
Tormentilla officinalis et reptans, *Tormentil*
Tragopogon pratense, Goat's Beard. *Castle walk*
Trichomanes brevistatum, Goldilocks. *Ludford Park wall*
Trifolium, species var. Trefoil
Triticum, id. Couch Gram
Turritis glabra et hirsuta, Wall Cress. *Ludlow*
Tussilago farfara, Coltsfoot
Typha latifolia et angustifolia, Cat's tail. *Oakley Park*

Ulex europeus, Whin
Urtica dioica, pilulifera, et urens, Nettle

Vaccinium myrtillus, Bilberry. *Whitclif coppice*
Valeriana officinalis, locusta, et dentata, Valerian
Verbascum thapsus, blattaria, et virgatum, Mullein
Verbena officinalis, Vervain. *Near the Weeping cross*
Veronica, species var. Speedwell
Vicia, id. Tare
Vinca minor, Small Periwinkle
Viola lutea, Yellow Violet. *Titterstone*
 _____ *odorata, canina, et tricolor*
Viscum album, White Mistletoe

Xanthium strumarium, Lesser Burdock

THE
DISTANCES OF ROADS
TO THE
PRINCIPAL NEIGHBOURING TOWNS.

TO SHREWSBURY. Miles.

Church Stretton	- - - - -	16
Shrewsbury	- - - - -	13

Total 29

TO BIRMINGHAM.

Cleobury Mortimer	- - - - -	11
Bewdley	- - - - -	8
Kidderminster	- - - - -	2
Birmingham	- - - - -	19

Total 40

TO WORCESTER.

Tenbury	- - - - -	9
Hundred House	- - - - -	12
Worcester	- - - - -	11

Total 32

TO HEREFORD.

Leominster	- - - - -	10
Hereford	- - - - -	13

Total 23

TO ABERYSTWITH.

Bishop's Castle	- - - - -	17
Newtown	- - - - -	16
Machynlleth	- - - - -	26
Aberystwith	- - - - -	20

Total 79

ANOTHER ROAD TO ABERYSTWITH.

Kington	- - - - -	16
Pen-y-bont	- - - - -	14
Rhayader	- - - - -	10
Devil's Bridge	- - - - -	19
Aberystwith	- - - - -	11

Total 70

To Knighton	- - - - -	18
To Bridgnorth	- - - - -	20
To Kington	- - - - -	22
To Presteign	- - - - -	17
To Montgomery	- - - - -	26



A GENERAL
CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX,
WITH APPROPRIATE
ADDITIONS AND OBSERVATIONS.



BEFORE the use of letters, Philosophy, History, and Morals were taught by artificial forms of speech committed to memory ; and the Bardic Triads were admirably adapted for this purpose, the remains of which, under the title of the "Triads of the isle of Britain," are justly esteemed the most precious relics of antiquity. In the progress of civilization, and when the use of letters was introduced, the bards continued to derive their first knowledge from the memorial forms of their predecessors. Taliesin, in his Poem called "the Appeasing of Llud," has the following singular passage, —

"Llwyth lliaws, anuaws ei henwerys,
Dygorecynan Prydain, prif fan ynyss,
Gwyr gwlad yr Asia, a gwlad Gafis ;
Pobl pwylad enwir, eu tir ni wya,
Famen gorwyreis herwydd Maris ;
Amlaes ei peisau, pwy ei hefelys ?
A phwylad dyfyned, ober efnis
Europa."

"A numerous race, fierce they are said to have been,
Were thy original colonists, Britain, first of Isles,
Natives of a country in Asia, and the country of Gafis ;
Said to have been a skilful people, but the district is unknown,
Which was mother to these children, warlike adventurers on the sea,
Clad in their long dress, who could equal them ?
Their skill is celebrated, they were the dread
Of Europe."

Of Hu the Mighty, the Chief who first colonised Britain, the triads are very particular in their description, and the high sense of his virtues appears to have deified him in succeeding ages ; an honour suitable to the ideas of heathenism, and, as such, the highest testimony of his people's veneration for his memory. Hu the Mighty is celebrated as having made poetry the vehicle of memory and record ; as having instructed the Cymry in agriculture, before their emigration ; as having led them to, and settled them in Britain ; as chief of the three pillars of the nation, the three institutors of social order, the three benefactors, the three improvers of song, and chief of the three guardians against oppression, with Prydain, the son of Aedd, who first instituted policy and law, and Rhitta Gawr, who made for himself a robe of the beards of kings whom he had shaved on account of their tyranny. It is not known what was the fate of this great man after his arrival in Britain ; probably it was he who was afterwards worshipped by the Celtic, or rather Cimbric, nations, under the name of Hens or Hesus ; an ancient piece of sculpture found in the beginning of the last century, on which Hesus is represented cutting trees, seems to confirm this opinion. It is not known when or where he died. His memorial is in the records of the nation he founded, where it will remain and be handed down to future ages, to be venerated as that of a chief who colonised a country in peace, in justice, and in civil rights. In the expression of the Triad, "they sought a settlement which could be obtained, not by war and bloodshed, but in peace and justice," there is conveyed the natural sentiment of a colony from a nation already harrassed by contest with an enemy against whom it were vain to hazard resistance. Such were at that time the Cimmerians of Herodotus and the Cymry of the Triads. Such seems the most probable account of the peopling of this country : in process of time other colonists arrived, and a commixture of various tribes during a succession of ages struggled in fierce contention with each other ; the primordial occupants to the last preserving the identity of their character, their name, and their language.

A A.C.

55. Caesar first invaded Britain.
54. Caesar's second visit.

A D.

43. Caractacus (*i.e.* Caradog) opposes the Romans, continuing to check their progress for nine years, cherishing the love of liberty and independence among his countrymen; and would have continued the struggle, if he had not been betrayed by the perfidious queen of the Brigantes; when this hero was delivered up to the Romans, his illustrious father Bran the son of Llyr, with all his family, were carried with him as hostages to Rome; remaining there seven years, on their return they brought with them the christian religion. Caradog, Cynelyn, and Arthur were the three brave sovereigns of Britain: and his father Bran with Lleirwg and Cadwalladr were the three blessed sovereigns of Britain. (*see p. 2*)
—Julius Frontinus conquers the Silures.
—Julius Agricola reduces Mona.
63. Boudicea defeats the Romans. This heroine was of tall and comely person and dignified aspect, with a shrill commanding voice; her fine yellow hair fell down to her loins, and above a flowing robe she wore a massive gold chain, and hamstrung her army in animated language.
—Julius Frontinus conquers from the Silures the forest of Dean and the country of Monmouth and Hereford.
78. Agricola completely subdues Mona.
85. Agricola recalled from Britain, after having successfully laboured to civilize and instruct our ancestors in the arts of peace and good government.
192. The Emperor Severus comes into Britain and dies at York.
209. Constantius dies at York: and in his last moments declares Constantine his heir and successor. Constantine (called the Great) was the son of Constantius by Helen, a lady of great piety and unrivaled beauty, the daughter of Coel Gedeboi the 76th king of Britain. This celebrated emperor began his reign at York, and soon afterwards, by removing the imperial seat to Constantinople, paved the way to the destruction of the empire and the desertion of Britain by the Romans.
392. The Picts, Irish, and Saxons unite in the invasion of Britain.—Driven out by Stilicho.
409. The Romans leave Britain.
416. The Saxons came into this island (as we learn from the Triads) "in peace and by the consent of the nation of the Cymry, under the protection of God and his truth, and under the protection of the country and nation; and they made an attack through treachery and outrage on the nation of the Cymry, taking from them what they could of the sovereign dominion of the Isle of Britain." This happened in the age of Vortigern. At this period the contest for mastery between the Saxons and Britons commenced, continuing from the departure of the Romans to the 10th of Edward I. a period of 626 years.
472. Massacre of upwards of 300 British noblemen by the Saxons at a feast.
510. The Sillian Prince Uther Pendragon dies by poison on the field of victory.
511. The Saxon chief Cadic, pursuing his conquests even into Wales, was successfully opposed by the enchanted Arthur, the son of Uther.
520. Arthur defeats the Saxons near Bath.
—The first military order established in Britain, whose members were denominated after its founder "the Warriors of Arthur."

570. The British bard Aneurin dies by the hand of an assassin.

556. The Mercian kingdom established by the Saxons, and the Octarchy completed. (*see p. 5*)

634. Defeat and death of Cadwallon by Penda; who also

642. defeats Oswald, exhibiting his head and limbs on stakes. (*p. 9*)

655. St. Milburg, the daughter of Meriwal, a Mercian king. At this period, says Baronius, "the churches were plentifully adorned with lilies of pure virginity, and violets of religious monks;" and in the reign of Henry I. when the tomb of this Princess Saint was opened, an odorous vapour exhaled, of balsamic power to cure the king's evil. The assumption of curing this disorder by the kings of England originated from this occurrence.

681. Cadwaladr leaves England and dies at Rome. (*p. 9*)

685. The Britons, after a brave struggle of nearly 150 years, driven by the Saxons into Wales and Cornwall.

777. From Shrewsbury, the Pengwerne of the Britons, the royal seat of the Princes of Powys removed to Mathrafal.

— Offa's Dyke made to be a barrier against the Britons, extending from the Severn at Chepstow to the Dee. (*p. 10*)

790. The Britons, meditating revenge against Offa for the injury and disgrace done to their country by the encroachment of the Clowdh Offa, suddenly rose in the night of St. Stephen's day and destroyed a great part of that barrier, carrying fire and sword unawares amongst their enemies, who were encamped near Hereford: the vindictive Offa soon after raising a powerful army, defeated the Britons at Rhindian marsh, and massacred all the prisoners on the field, sparing neither man, woman, nor child. Offa himself is supposed to have received his death wound in this action.

878. The Danes gain possession of Mercia. (*p. 12*)

— Alfred the Great, after subduing the Danish invaders (against whom he fought 56 battles) composes his body of laws, and divides England into counties, hundreds, and tythings.

907. Mercia a province under Alfred. (*p. 15*)

928. Ethelfleda, "Lady of Mercia" dies. (*p. 16*)

1010. Shrewsbury taken by Edmund Ironside, and the inhabitants, who had joined Canute against his father Ethelred, severely punished.

— Near Shrewsbury, Alphelem, a prince of the blood, murdered whilst hunting, by Godwin Porthund, a butcher of that town, hired by Edric Streon, the execrable Earl of Mercia.

1036. Leofric, who married the celebrated Godiva, Earl of Mercia.

1041. The Saxon line restored under Edward the Confessor.

1052. Harold overruns Wales.

1055. Hereford burnt by the Britons.

1057. Sweyne Earl of Mercia; he seduced Elgiva, Abbess of Leominster, and was obliged to leave the kingdom; afterwards condemned to undergo the penance of walking barefooted to Jerusalem to expiate a murder, he died of fatigue on his journey.

1066. William the Conqueror subdues England.

— Roger Montgomery is said to have erected a great part of Ludlow Castle about this time. (*p. 21*) He was a lover of justice, delighted in the society of the wise, and long retained in his service the three celebrated clerks, Godebald, Odelericus, and Herbert, by whose advice he directed his undertakings. To Warin the bald, of low stature but lofty courage, he gave Aimeris his niece; William surnamed Pantulf, Picold, Corbat, with his sons Roger and Rodbert, were among his great men. Helgot was the father of Herbert, this celebrated companion of the Conqueror was the Lord of Castle Holgate in Corvedale.

1069. Shrewsbury besieged by Edric Sylvaticus and Owen Gwynedd, Prince of Wales, but relieved, and the Welsh defeated with great slaughter by William the Conqueror.

1074. Ordericus, Monk of Uticum, the first Salopian author.

1080. About this period what is denominated Saxon Architecture was introduced: walls thick—no buttresses—arches semicircular supported by clumsy pillars; the arches ornamented with spirals, squares, lozenge, network, zigzag, and animals. This improvement of the church may seem to indicate greater attention to religion, yet from all we are able to collect from history the times of feudal tyranny was the iron age of our country, when the manners of our Saxon ancestors were neither pious nor civilized. Plots and treason prevailed among the clergy; usurpation, tyranny, and debauchery in the nobility; and in the people ferocity and fear, the vices of slavish minds. The barbarians who settled in the Roman provinces were ignorant and superstitious in the extreme, and in accepting christianity did not change in character but in name only. Christianity is holy, its doctrines divine, its morality noble, perfect, and sublime; its worship simple and pure, coming from the heart, conformable to reason. But ignorance, fanaticism, and tyranny perverted this holy religion, substituting vain ceremonies for its essential duties, and appeasing remorse in the consciences of the wicked by faith in impious and absurd doctrines, and by donations to the church, teaching that crimes were to be atoned for by abject submission to the clergy, and not by amendment of life. Few in the 9th, 10th, or 11th centuries deserved the name of christians: they were as superstitious in their devotion, and as savage and wicked in their lives, as their heathen ancestors. The annexed engraving is an exact representation of an Altar Piece found in Ludlow Castle: from the rudeness of the workmanship it is judged to be very ancient, and is considered to be an evidence of the influence of religious feeling on the minds of our ancestors in a period not far distant from the time of the Conquest.



1087. In the first year of William Rufus, Roger Lord Mortimer, the Earls of Shrewsbury and Hereford, with other great men, rose against the king, advancing with an army as far as Worcester; but on promise of redress of grievances peace was restored.

1102. Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury (both garrisoned for Robert Duke of Normandy by Robert de Belesme) taken by Henry I.

1116. At Shrewsbury the nobility of the realm swore fealty to William son of Henry I.

1122. Lord Fulk Fitgwarine, Warden of the Marches, was the progenitor of the famous family of the Gnarines of Whittington; the son of Guarine de Menth; his mother, the beautiful and magnanimous Mellet, the daughter of Pain Peverel. (p. 28)

1124. Caer Castle taken by the Welsh, who cut off the heads of all that were therein.

1125. Ludlow, under Gervase Paganel, besieged by Stephen (p. 27)

1129. Shrewsbury, which had been seized by William Fitzalan, Lord of Oswestry, for the Empress Maud, taken, after a brave defence, and several of the garrison hanged by Stephen.

1140. Walter Fitzalan (whose descendants took the name of Stewart, from their office of high Steward of Scotland) was the progenitor of the royal family of Stewart, and founder of Paisley monastery, born at Oswestry.

1156-7. Bridgnorth, under Hugh de Mortimer, besieged by Henry II. when Sir Robert Synclare, or Robert de St. Clare, Constable of Colchester Castle, perceiving one of the besieged taking aim at the king, stepped before him and received the arrow in his own breast.

1164. Henry II. assembles his army at Oswestry to attempt the subjugation of Wales.

1165. Giraldus Cambrensis on his expedition with Archbishop Baldwin to preach for the third Crusade, observes in his Itinerary that he "passed by Ludlow, under the walls of the noble Castle of Roger Montgomery." Being a native of Wales his account of the manners and character of his countrymen is interesting and authentic. We learn from him that the Britons were a nation light and nimble, rather fierce than strong: devoted to arms from the highest to the lowest, and ready to rise on the first summons. Their food was cattle and oats, milk, cheese, and butter. Not engaged in traffic, military affairs occupied their attention; and so dear to them was their country and its liberties, that they delighted not only to fight but even to die in their defence. Such was their eager courage that they even dared unarmed to attack those who were covered with armour. The armour they used was light, and did not impede their motions. Their offensive weapons were arrows and long spears: the men of North Wales with their spears could pierce through an iron coat of mail; those of South Wales were the best archers: they either went with their feet bare, or made shoes of raw skins. The young men, engaged in wandering over mountains and penetrating thickets, were prepared for the fatigues of war. They were not given to excess in eating, in drinking or in clothing. In their expeditions they neither regarded hunger nor cold, and eagerly took advantage of dark and stormy nights for hostile invasions. There was not a beggar to be seen among these people; for the tables of all were common to all; and bounty and hospitable entertainment were virtues in highest estimation. As soon as a traveller entered a house, he gave his arms to some person; on which water being offered, if he allowed his feet to be washed he was a guest for the night. The offer of water was understood to be an invitation to hospitable entertainment. Strangers who arrived in the morning were entertained with the conversation of the young women and with the music of the harp. Such an influence had music on their minds, that they esteemed skill in playing on the harp beyond any kind of learning. In the evening an entertainment was provided according to the number of the guests and the wealth of the house. Few dishes were prepared; and no stimulants to gluttony used. The guests were placed by threes, and the dishes put on rushes, with thin and flat cakes newly baked. When the hour of sleep arrived, they all lay down in common on the public bed, ranged

lengthways on the sides of the room. They were a people of an acute and subtle genius; and, enjoying a rich vein of natural endowments, excelled all the western nations in wit and ingenuity. In seasons of public festivity, or in the social circle, wit and humour flowed as from an inexhaustible source. Nature gave to the lowest, as well as to the highest of this people, a certain boldness of speech, and an honest confidence in giving answers to great men or in the presence of princes: pride of ancestry was deeply rooted in their hearts, and he was considered honourable, among whose progenitors neither slave, foreigner, nor infamous person could be found. They did not reside in cities, villages, or camps, but solitarily in woods. Their affections were strongly engaged in domestic and family relationships, and their revenge of injuries was sudden and severe. Their amusements were suited to their general character; feats of strength, throwing a bar of iron, quoit, leaping, wrestling, running, riding, archery, and throwing the javelin. In families, playing on the harp, reading, singing an ode of four parts with proper accentuation and expression, and similar exercises. Early instructed in the christian religion, their faith possessed greater simplicity, and was more spiritualized than that of other nations. They gave part of the bread served at the altar to the poor; sat down to table in threes in honour of the trinity, and if a religious or grave person presided, he begged a blessing with his arms extended and his head hanging down. As it was the disposition of this people to pursue every exciting object with vehemence, none were elsewhere to be found so bad as the worst, nor any better than the good among them. As a proof of the religious spirit prevalent at the time, the author, from whom the above is translated, states that his expedition was so successful, that 3000 of the most warlike of the natives joined the standard of the cross.

1194. Clun Castle taken by Rees, Prince of Wales.

1206. At Shrewsbury, Gwynwyn, Prince of Wales, who came before the royal council in that town to propose terms of peace treacherously seized and imprisoned.

1212. Oswestry, under its Lord Fitzalan, taken and burnt by John.
— At Shrewsbury, Rees ap Maelegwyn, a boy not 7 years old, who had been delivered as hostage by the Welsh, inhumanly hanged by order of Vipont, a retainer of king John.

1215. Shrewsbury surrendered to Llewellyn, Prince of Wales

1238. Oswestry taken and burnt by Llewellyn and the Earl of Pembroke, who afterwards took Shrewsbury, and slaughtered many of the inhabitants.

1241. At Shrewsbury Henry III. assembled his army to attack David ap Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, but on his submission, Henry, after remaining 18 days, returned to London.
— Jordene de Ladford's grant of the common pasture of Whitchiff. The Abbot of Gloucester's grant is supposed to be of the same date.

1260. Shrewsbury taken by the insurgent barons, but shortly afterwards retaken by the forces of Henry III.

1262. Bridgnorth taken by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester.

1267. At Shrewsbury, Henry III. appeared with his army to attack the Welsh, but peace was restored on the submission of Llewellyn. (p. 26)

1268. Sir John Charlton, Governor of Ireland, born at Apley.

1269. Shrewsbury town and castle placed under the government of Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I.

1277. The Courts of King's Bench and Exchequer established for some months at Shrewsbury by Edward I.

1281. The Courts of King's Bench and Exchequer again removed from London to Shrewsbury by Edward I. and remained there until he had

accomplished the complete subjugation of Wales.—Llewellyn defeated and slain by Edward I.

1283. David, the last native Prince of Wales hanged at Shrewsbury. (p. 40) The Parliament removed from Shrewsbury to Acton Burnell, where was passed the act respecting Merchant Debtors entitled "Statutum de Mercatoribus," called also "the Statute of Acton Burnell."

1284. Edward I. passes an edict to put to death all the bards of Wales, which remained in force to the end of Henry IV. 1412. (p. 39)

— Edward II, the first English prince of Wales, born at Caernarvon.

1295. Madoc reduces Oswestry, defeats Lord Strange near Knockin, routs a force sent out against him, and approaches Shrewsbury, but, encountering with an armament raised by several of the Lord's Marchers, is defeated and taken.

1321. During the second baronial confederacy, Roger Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, was taken prisoner at Bridgnorth by Edward II. and his sentence of decapitation exchanged for that of perpetual imprisonment; but he made his escape from the Tower, Aug. 1323.

1322. In entering Shrewsbury, Edward II. received by the Burgesses with great military parade.

1327. At Shrewsbury, Edmund Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, a faithful adherent to the deposed Edward II. against the queen and her paramour Mortimer, seized by the inhabitants, and executed without any form of trial.

1346. An expedition being projected against France, Sir Roger le Strange of Knockin and John le Strange, James de Audley, William de Ertalive (i.e. Ercal), William Stury, and John Aston, as chief persons in the county of Salop, were summoned to find 40 men at arms, and 40 hobelers, of which 10 were to be from Ludlow. Men at arms were in complete armour, with stout horses: hobelers rods hobbies or small horses, and wore light armour.

1351. Norman French was universally taught in our schools till the year 1351, when a master of the name of Cornwall, at Shrewsbury, first began to teach English, and before the year 1400 the practice became general.

1369. Robert Langlande, Monk, author of "Pierce Ploughman's Vision," Cleobury Mortimer.

1373 John Talbot, the celebrated Earl of Shrewsbury, born at Blackmere.

1382. Roger Mortimer, the son of Edmund by Philippa daughter of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, presumptive heir to the crown, being Lieutenant of Ireland, was wounded in a skirmish, brought home, and died at Wigmore.

1396-7. A Parliament held at Shrewsbury by Richard II. called "The Great Parliament," in which Chester was made a Principality, and several oppressive laws were enacted, which formed some of the subjects of accusation brought against Richard by Henry of Bolingbroke.

1403. Henry IV. defeats the Earl of Northumberland at Shrewsbury.

1406. Robert Mascall was made a Carmelite, or White Friar, at Ludlow, was Confessor to Edward IV. and Bishop of Hereford: born at Ludlow.

1450. Duke of York's letter respecting the Government of Ludlow by the 12 and 25 as formerly. (p. 48)

1459. Henry VI. at Ludford with his army. (p. 50)

1460. Duke of York raises an army of 23,000 men and gains the victory of Mortimer's Cross. (p. 57)

1461. Edward 4th's first Charter.

1469. John Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester, Lord President.

1472. Ludlow first authorised to send two members to Parliament.

1478. Edward 4th's second Charter.

1483. The Princes Edward and Richard, sons of Edward IV. taken from Ludlow by order of Richard III (p. 63)

1484. Richard 3rd's Charter.

— At Shrewsbury, Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, having been betrayed by his servant, Ralph Bannister, was beheaded by order of Richard III. before the High Cross.

1485. The Earl of Richmond (afterwards Henry VII) on his march from Milford Haven, admitted into Shrewsbury; but the chief Bailiff, Thomas Myton, having sworn that Richmond should not enter the town but over his belly, to comply with the letter of his oath, laid himself in the high road, and Henry walked over him.

1488. Henry VII. visited Shrewsbury and Ludlow.

1490. Henry VII. his Queen Elizabeth, and Prince Arthur their son, from Ludlow, kept the feast of St. George at Shrewsbury.

1493. Henry VII. again visited Shropshire.

1502. (April) At Ludlow died Arthur Prince of Wales. (p. 73)

1509. Henry 8th's Charter.

1521. Sir Thomas Cornwall, Baron of Burford, tenth in descent from Richard Earl of Cornwall, was member of the council in Ludlow Castle.

1535. Oswestry, Whittington, Maesbrook, Knockin, Ellesmere, Down, and Cherbury, by Act of Parliament, severed from Wales and annexed to Shropshire.

1540. Thomas Churchyard, Poet, Shrewsbury.

1542. The Jurisdiction of the Court of the Lords President of the Marches at Ludlow confirmed by act of Parliament.

1545. Palmer's Guild Estate inquired into by Henry VIII.

1549. Hugh Broughton, a learned divine, Oldbury.

1551. Palmer's Guild Estate given up to Edward VI. and by him given to the town of Ludlow June 1, and the fraternity dissolved. (p. 165)

1552. Edward 6th's Charter.

1553. Queen Mary's ratification of Edward's Charter.

— Circumstances affecting the minds of men, differently at distant periods, strongly illustrate the spirit of the ages in which they occur: the following account, from an ancient manuscript preserved among the records of Shrewsbury, is congenial to the faith and feelings of men of the middle of the 16th century. "Upon Twelfeth day, 1553, the dyyll appeared in saint Alkmond's church, when the preest was at highe masse, with greate tempeste and darknesse, so that as he passyd through the churche he mounted up the steeple, tearing the wyer of the clocke, and put the prynt of his claves upon the fourth bell, and tooke one of the pynacles awaie with hym, and for the tyme stayed all the bells in the churche within the towne that the could neyther toll nor ryng." Similar occurrences are found in accounts of those times; in Stamford Church the devil is painted with a steeple in his claws which he is attempting to swallow.

1554. Queen Mary's Charter.

1556. Edward Burton, Esq. a zealous protestant, refused christian burial by the cathelic priesthood of Shrewsbury, and buried in his garden at Longnor. Sir Andrew Corbet wrote the epitaph which is on his tombstone.—

Was't for denying Christ, or some notorious fact,
That this man's body christian burial lackt?
O no! his faithful true profession
Was the chief cause, which then was held transgression:
When Popery here did reign, the See of Rome
Would not admit to any such a tomb
Within their idol temple walls:—but he,

Truly professing Christianity,
Was, like Christ Jesus in a garden laid,
Where he shall rest in peace till it be said,
Come faithful servant, come, receive with me.
A just reward for thy integrity.—1614.

1577. Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord President till 1580, during the absence of Sir Henry Sidney.

1582. Edward Herbert, Lord Herbert, soldier, statesman, and historian. "He possessed," says Lord Orford, "a wonderful fund of internal virtue, of strong resolution, and manly philosophy; with foibles, passions, vanity, and wrongheadedness: these he scorned to conceal, for he sought truth, wrote truth—was truth. He was formed to shine in every sphere into which his impetuous temperament or predominant reason conducted him." He was descended from the Talbot, Devereaux, Gray, Corbet, and other noble families; born at Eynon.

1586. Queen Elizabeth's Charter.

1604. King James' Charter.

1615. Richard Baxter, Bowton, township of Ercall Magna.

1616. Prince Charles, (Ch. I.) pompously entertained at Ludlow. (p. 116)

1627. King Charles' Charter.

1636. Sir John Walter, Lord Chief Baron, Ludlow.

1635. Thomas Parr aged 152.

1642. Charles I. at Wellington, Shrewsbury, and Bridgnorth, with the Princes James and Charles, Prince Rupert, and numerous Lords and Gentlemen, proclaiming free toleration of protestantism, and preservation of the subjects' civil rights. Oct. 12 advances to Edgehill, where his first great battle was fought.

1642-6. Prince Rupert defeats the Parliamentarians at Worcester—at Wakefield—takes Cirencester—Birmingham—Lichfield—skirmishes, and obtains a great victory in Chalgrove field—takes Bristol—gains a victory at Auburn in Wiltshire—falls in with a flying party and beats them into Reading—routes forces under Sir Thomas Fairfax and Col. Mytton at Drayton—takes Longford House in Shropshire—takes Tong Castle—relieves Lathom House—storms and takes Bolton in Lancashire—defeats Col. Shuttleworth at Blackburn—relieves York—defeats Col. Massey at Ledbury (p. 120)

1644. The Earl of Deabigh takes Oswestry from the Royalists, receiving £500 to preserve the town from being pillaged.

1645. Sir John Price takes Apley House, making prisoners of Sir Thomas Whitmore, Sir Francis Outley, and about 60 royalists. Feb. 9, Shrewsbury taken by Col. Mytton, the Parliamentarian Governor of Wem; the Governor, Sir Michael Eardley, slain, and 60 gentlemen and 200 soldiers taken, with 15 cannons.

— Ludlow and Bridgnorth taken for the Parliament.

1649. Timothy Neve, divine and antiquary, Wootton in Staunton Lacy parish.

1651. Charles II. with the Earl of Derby, flies from the fatal battle of Worcester: arrives at White Ladies' Priory Sept 4: disguised in the clothes of the Pendrills and conducted to Boscobel House: concealed with Colonel Careless in the Royal Oak: conducted to the house of Mr. Whitgrave at Moseley: &c. Oct. 15, Col. John Benbow (uncle to the renowned Admiral) shot on the Castle Green, at Shrewsbury.

1653. Dr. Aruway, antagonist of Milton, Hodnet.

1654. The royal party, under Sir Thomas Harries, fail in their attempt on Shrewsbury.

1661. The Council of the Marches reestablished by proclamation. First sitting Jan. 16th, 1661, Earl of Corberry President.

1665 Charles 2nd's Charter.
 1673. Sir Job Charlton chosen Speaker of the House of Commons. Requests to be dismissed on account of ill health. Made one of the Judges of the Common Pleas.
 1675. Great fire at Wem, which destroyed the church, market house, 140 capital, and three times that number of smaller buildings.
 1683. Sir Thomas Walcot sworn a Judge of King's Bench.
 — The Duke of Beaufort passed through Ludlow with a splendid retinue.
 1686. Earl Powis (William) sworn of the Privy Council. Honoured with the title and dignity of Marquis
 — Sir Job Charlton made Lord Chief Justice of Chester.
 1687. James II. at Ludlow. (p. 206)
 1689. The Court of the Marches, held at Ludlow, abolished by act of Parliament. (p. 126)
 1692. Charter of William and Mary.
 1696. William Clarke, A.M. divine and antiquary, (father of Dr. Ed. Daniel Clarke, the traveller) Haughmond Abbey.
 1702. Matthew Clarke, divine and orientalist, born at Ludlow.
 1707. Dr. W. Adams, intimate friend of Dr. Johnson, Shrewsbury.
 1714. Hugh Farmer, a learned Unitarian divine, Shrewsbury.
 1725. Robert Lord Clive, East Indian Conqueror, Styche.
 1728. Dr. Percy, the learned Bishop of Dromore, born at Bridgnorth.
 1748. Thomas Jones, Esq. a gentleman of learning, elegance of taste, and a philanthropist, born at Ludlow.
 1804. John Boydell, artist and patron of artists, died; Stanton Lacy.
 1808. John Devaston, Esq. a learned, scientific, and ingenuous gentleman, studious, liberal minded, fond of music: an Unitarian Christian: the intimate friend of Shenstone the poet. His son John F. M. Devaston, Esq. a gentleman of the greatest respectability, possessed with the paternal estate the valuable and extensive collection of manuscripts left by his father, which are always freely offered to the inspection of literary or inquisitive applicants.
 1823. The first stone of the Castle Bridge laid by the Hon. R. H. Clive on the 12th of Sept. in this year.
 1824. Richard Payne Knight, Esq. the learned and accomplished proprietor of Downton Castle, many years Member of Parliament for Ludlow, died.



INDEX.

	page		
Achwynfan	175	Brampton Bryan	222
Aeton Burnell	205	Brand Lane	186
Agricola	203	Brandon Camp	3
Albani, Philip de	24	Brereton, General	122
Alcock, Bishop	92	Brick House	242
Alfred	12, 19, 204	Bridgeman, Sir John	125
Alfric	17	Bridgewater, Earl of	116
Alfritha	19	Bridgnorth	265
Algar	17, 19	British Dynasty destroyed	39
Almshouse	157	Britons, character of the	206
Altar Piece, curious	265	Broad Gate	189
Aneurin	264	Street	179
Apley House	270	Brocmail	8
Archery	148	Bromfield	238
Architecture, Saxon	265	Broughton, Hugh	269
Arnulph	19	Buliring	173
Arnway, Dr.	270	Buonaparte, Lucien	184
Arthur, King	5, 18, 263	Burford	212
Prince	68, 73	House	ibid.
Asford Hall	211	Burgeship	192
Court	212	Burton, Edward	209
Astley, Sir James	121	Butler	122
Attilbury	43	Cadwalledyr	9, 67, 264
Augustine	8	Canwallon	9, 264
Friars	174	Caer Caradoc	2
Bailiffs chosen	192	Caerleon	18
bails	193	Cæsar invades Britain	263
Baldwin	19	Camp Lane	184
Bangor	8	Canute	17
Bank	251	Caractacus	2, 263
Bards, destruction of	38, 268	Carberry, Earl of	122
Barnaby Lane and House	181	Castle	27, 128
Basset, Sir Ralph	35	Bridge	184, 271
Batchcott	215	Street	186
Bath, New, at Saltmore	211	Catherine of Arragon	68, 86
Beaumont, Roger de	20	Cause Castle	268
Belesme, Ivo de	23	Caxton	91
Robert de	23, 24	Caynham	249
Bell Lane	186	Ceolwolf	8, 12
Benefit Societies	197	Ceori	9
Betty, William Henry West	247	Cerdic	263
Bitterley Court and School	244	Chapel, St Leonard's	169
Bloant, Sir Walter	126	Independents	171
Blue Coat School	164	Methodist's	186
Blythe, Geoffry	92	St John's	146
Boadicea	263	St Peter's	40
Bone Well	216	of St Mary	182
Besworth Field	67	in Dinham	184

Chapel in the Castle	136	Duke of Buckingham	269
—of St. Catherine	210	Dynedor	2
Charities	161	Easton	212
Charles I	116, 270	Edric Streon	17, 204
—II	270	—Sylvaticus	19, 265
—Prince	116	Edward the Confessor	264
Charlton, Sir Job	128, 271	—Prince	35
—Sir John	267	—I	38, 40
—family	204	—II	40, 268
Cherbury, Ld. Herbert of	126, 270	—IV	59, 62
Chester made a Principality	268	—VI	160
Chilimarch	43	Edwin	19, 20
Chirk	464	Election of Bailiffs	192
Christianity in Britain	190	—of members of Parliament	193
Chronological Index	261	Ethelbald	9
Church	143	Ethelbert	10
Churchyard	152, 269	Etheldridha	464
Clee Hill	246	Ethelfleda	15, 264
Clifford, Walter de	38	Ethelfrith	8
Clive family	240	Ethelred	15, 17
Clun Castle	267	Eure, Lord	116
Clungunford	229	Fabyan, extracts from	54, 88
Conches	251	Fairs and Markets	252
College	159	Feathers Inn	173
—St. John's	179	Ferney Hall	237
Companies of Trades	197	Ferrars, Sir William	43
Comus, Milton's	116	Fitzalan	27, 266, 268
Corbet, Peter	27	Fletcher's Chancery	148
Cornwall, Sir Thomas	269	Forest, Miles	63
—family	212	Fox's Almshouse	169
Correction, House of	177	France, expedition against	268
Corve Dale	28	Free Grammar School	182
—Gate and Bridge	173	Friar's Lane	174
Council in the Marches	80, 126	Frog Lane	178
Court of the Marches	89, 269, 270	Frontinus, Julius	2, 263
—of Record	193	Frontier Wars	26
—of Hill	247	Frontiers of Wales	464
Credon Hill	2	Fulke Fitzwarine	21, 28, 266
Crida	9	Gaunt, John of	213
Cristyne of Pyse	91	Geneville, Geoffry de	34
Croft, Sir John	48	—Peter de	35
—Sir William	123	George Barnwell	207
—Castle	218	Gerald, Thomas Lord	116
—family	219	—Charles	125
Danæs in Mercia	12, 264	Gestes of Guarine & his sons	30
David, Prince	35, 37, 39, 268	Gifford, John	28
Delbury	943	Giles, St	268
Devil, appearance of the	269	Giraldus Cambrensis	266
Dighton, John	63	Glendower, Owen	46
Dinham, Gate and House	184	Grey, Lady Jane	97
Dispensary	196	Goaiford Tower	173
Distances of Market Towns	259	—Gate	174
Dovaston, John, Esq	271	Godiva	19
Downton Castle	225	Gormo, or Guthrun	12
—Hall	243	Gotsø, or Joccas, de Dinan	28
Dubricius	18	Government of Ludlow	191
Dudley, Robert	99	Guarine, Fitz	28, 266
—Lord	48, 95	Guild Hall	183

Gwynwynwyn, Prince	267	Lower Broad Street	190
Hay Park	215	Lower Mill Street	184
Heath House	230	Lucton School	230
Bishop	100	Ludecan	11
Henley Hall	244	Ludiord	201
Henry II	96, 28, 38, 266	House	<i>tbid</i>
III	34, 267	Almshouse	206
IV	44, 82, 268	Bridge	287
VI	52, 63, 268	Ludlow, Government of	191
VII	67, 82, 269	described	128
VIII	68, 82, 85, 93, 94	population of	198
Herbert, Sir William	96	Castle	127
Edward Lord	270	Ode on	143
Herefordshire Beacon	2	Charter	50
High Street	188	Liberties of	127
Higwood House	219	Lying in Society	196
Holgate Fee	174	Mabel	21
Hopton Castle	231	Macclesfield, Earl of	125
Court	247	Madoc	268
Walter de	231	Magnus	23
Hosyer's Almshouse	157	Mail and Stage Coaches	251
Hu the Mighty	262	Manufactures and Trade	198
Huck's Barn	207	Marches of Wales	1, 26
Infant Princes at Ludlow	62	March, Earl of	36
murdered	63	Marian	31
their Epitaph	64	Market House	185
Irish Soldiers, 13 hanged	120	Cross	188
James II	126	Marlow	230
Joccas de Dinan	28	Mary, Princess	93
John, King	34	of the Vale	182
Jordain de Ludford	203, 267	Mascal, Robert	208
Judith	18	Matiida	19, 20
Kenchester	3	Maurice, Prince	120
Kenwulf	11	Mercia	5
Kinelm	<i>tbid</i>	Mercian Lodge	195
King Street	188	Merry Vale	182
Knight, R. Payne, Esq	271	Merthyr Tewdric	9
Lacy, Gilbert de	24	Milburg, St.	264
Walter de	<i>tbid</i>	Mill Street and Gate	193
Hugh de	38	Monington, Roger	48
Lampridius	27	Montford, de	36, 257
Lancaster, Duke of	43	Montgomery, Hugh de	22
Langfordian Boys	183	Roger	19, 21, 22, 264
Langlande, Robert	208	Moor Park	214
Lawes, Henry	117	Morcar	19
Lechmere family	203	More, Sir Thomas	93
Lecturer	160	Mortimer, Hugh de	28
Lee, Sir Rowland	94	Roger de	27, 36, 40, 265, 268
Leicester, Earl of	29	Edmund	44
Leintwardine	227	Mortimer's Tower	129
Leofric	19, 264	Cross	222
Llewellyn, Prince	23, 27, 267, 268	Battle of	57
Limits of the Town	125	Mytton, Colonel	120
Linney Gate	145	National School	186
Lisle, Sir Arnold de	29	Neve, Timothy	270
Lodge, the	214	Newsmen	233
Longspey, Dame	38	Norman Invasion	19
Lords Marchers	80, 85	Norman French	268

Northampton, Earl of	116	Sibdon Castle	229
Northumberland, Earl of	97	Sidney, Sir Henry	101
Oakley Park	240	——— Sir Philip	104
Ode on Ludlow Castle	143	Siefton	243
Odo	23	Silures	2, 263
Offa's Dyke and Wall	10	Smythe, Bishop	92
Old Street	186	Somerset, Marquis of	122
——— Gate	174	Stanton Lacy House	242
Onibury	237	Stanage Park	229
Ordericus	20, 265	Stephen, King	27
Orgaa	146	Steventon Cottage	250
Organist	161	Stoke Castle	235
Orleton	217	Stone House	237
Ostorius Scapula	2	Strange, John le	35
Oswald	264	St. John's College	179
Oswestry	267	——— Close	180
Paganelle, Gervase	27	St. Leonard's Chapel	169
Palmer's Guild	165	——— Mary White Friars	168
Paving Act	198	——— Mary's Chapel	182
Pembroke, Countess of	99	——— Peter, Chapel of	40
Earl of	96, 115	——— Winefred, Legend of	181
Pendover	131	Swyne, Earl	264
Penda	9	Talbot, Earl of	268
Peopling of Britain	202	——— Gilbert	33
Plantagenet, Richard	48	Taliedin	7, 261
last of the family of	88	Talvace, William	22
Planta, list of	254	Tame, Lord Williams of	100
Presidents of Wales	86	Tewdric	8
Princes Ed. V & Duke of York	68	Theatre	183
Processioning	195	Titterstone	246
Quarter Sessions	198	Trollop, Andrew	52
Races	197	Tyrrel, James	63
Raven Lane	186	Undergot, Peter	34
Reader	161	Union of England and Wales	83
Rees ap Maelgwyn	267	Uronium	5
Rhudian Marsh, Battle of	264	Uther Pendragon	263
Rice, Sir Griffiths ap	71	Van Hall	243
Richard I	33	Vaughan, Lord	122
II	43	Vernon, Theobald de	27
III	63, 67	Villeinage, abolition of	234
Richard's Castle	215	Voysey, Bishop	93
Richmond, Earl of	209	Waggons	252
Ring, Legend of the	148	Walcot, Sir Thomas	271
Rivers	200	Wales, Court for the govern-	
Earl	68, 89	ment of	86
Robert Curtoise	24	Walks and Rides	199
Rope Pulling	193	Water, reservoirs of	186
Rupert, Prince	120, 125, 270	and Wells	199
Salisbury, Earl of	62	Warwick, Earl of	88
Saltmore Well	210	Weeping Cross	175
Sampson, Bishop	95	Whitgift, Dr.	109
Saxons and Britons	5, 263	Whitton Court	248
Saxon Octarchy	5, 264	Wiglaf	11
School, Blue Coat	186	Wigmore	19, 223
Free Grammar	183	William the Conqueror	19
National	187	Rufus	23
Severus	263	Woodhouse, Sir Michael	122
Sheet, the	249	Woodville, Anthony	89

Worcester, Marquis of	122	York's, Duke of, Letter con-
Workhouse	175	cerning the Government
York and Lancaster, Wars of	40	of Ludlow
—Duke of	48, 57	Zouch, Lord

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